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Front Cover – Western Kingbird, Jones Beach West End, *Nassau*, 11 Sep 2017,
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Back Cover – Eastern Kingbird, Green-Wood Cemetery, *Kings*, 2 Sep 2017,
© Daisy Lane Paul.

A CORN CRAKE (*Crex crex*) AT CEDAR BEACH, SUFFOLK COUNTY, LONG ISLAND

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*Listen closely, fellow birders, and you will have our take
on the recent discovery of the elusive Corn Crane.*

(with apologies to William Wadsworth Longfellow)

A cold front had pushed into the Northeast prior to Election Day, 7 November 2017, and Sue and I had begun our birding (after voting, of course) at Robert Moses State Park, a short distance east of Cedar Beach. The birding was slow, with our only notable sighting being a late Magnolia Warbler. We decided to head west on the Ocean Parkway and bird at Jones Beach State Park, where we knew from experience that any south-facing shrub barrier may harbor late insectivorous species. Traveling on the Ocean Parkway during rush hour is not for the faint of heart, with traffic routinely moving at seventy-five miles per hour. We had learned through years of traversing this roadway that maintaining a minimum speed of sixty miles per hour was necessary to prevent being rear-ended. Long ago, we had developed the habit of checking the shoulder of the parkway for birds as we drove, and doubling back to check anything that looked interesting. As we approached the Cedar Beach marina KF noted a buffy-chested bird standing under a shrub on the north shoulder of the parkway. It looked intriguing, although we had no idea what it might be. Carefully making the turn to head east we were soon heading west again, approaching the location where the bird had been seen—and there it was, feeding right along the edge of the shrubline. Meanwhile, cars sped by only five feet away, shaking our car as they whizzed by. Sue and I both said “It’s a rail!”, which is curious, because, in many ways, this bird looked decidedly un-rail-like, more suggestive of a female quail or grouse.

About this time a Suffolk County police officer pulled up along side us and asked if we needed any help (the bird raced into the bushes). Sue smiled sweetly and told the officer that we had just managed to get our car started (!!!). The deception came so easily—who was this woman I thought I knew? Having told the officer our car was in working order we had to leave, making the same circuitous route as before. When we arrived back where the bird had been we quickly spied the bird actively feeding, apparently on earthworms. I was attempting to get photos of the bird, but was constantly shooting through my back window, and the photos were terrible. I carefully opened the door and

stepped outside, and the bird rocketed into the vegetation. For the third time we left and did our (now familiar) route. The bird again cooperated and returned to feeding on the grassy shoulder.

Sue and I had been through this drill previously, having on three occasions discovered Yellow Rail on the nearby Oak Beach Marsh during the Captree Christmas Bird Count. Naturally, we first concentrated on a possible Yellow Rail or immature Sora. Of immediate concern was the large size of the bird, which did not seem to fit either Yellow Rail or Sora. The patterning of the back feathering also seemed inconsistent with the two rails. I decided to take a flyer and asked Sue to look up Corn Crake in the Nat Geo field guide. The book had a tiny illustration of an adult Corn Crake—we were not convinced. During this time the bird had been feeding in relatively tall grass that hid its flanks. When the bird came out a little further we saw the burnt red coloring on the flanks. Sue and I looked at each other and said "uh-oh". At this point Sue smartly googled "juvenile Corn Crake" and once we saw the picture, we were convinced. We called Shai Mitra and Pat Lindsay to help with the identification, and we were lucky they were able to quickly come over and confirm our (tentative) determination that the bird was a Corn Crake.

After that we posted the observation to the Cornell listserv and the insanity began.

The End



THE CORN CRAKE (*Crex crex*) IN NEW YORK STATE, WITH COMMENTS ON ITS OCCURRENCE IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE, 1833-2017.

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When Ken and Sue Feustel reported a Corn Crane (*Crex crex*) to the New York State Birds listserv on the morning of 7 November 2017 (Feustel 2017, Feustel 2018), it was the first ever sight record by birders of a living Corn Crane in New York State (NYS), and the first known occurrence since 1963. Lincoln (1998) listed six specimens collected in NYS: four at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City (AMNH) and two at the State Museum in Albany (NYSM). In addition to these, AMNH #1026 was received from the Central Park Zoo 4 April 1894, and is a skeleton (not skin), and AMNH #75834 flew aboard the steam ship “Bostonian” in the English Channel ca. 17 October 1901 and was brought to this country and obtained by the Museum. Of the seven NYS records that include site data, six came from Long Island (all from Suffolk County except for AMNH #12537, which indicates only “Long Island”), and one from inland NYS in Albany County. Of the six NYS records with reliable dates, five were found in the narrow date range of 1-7 November, and four were collected within the brief period 1880-1888.

The Corn Crane is a highly migratory rail, breeding in the Palearctic from coastal north-western Europe to Western China and migrating primarily to eastern/southern Africa (de Burgos and Olmos 2013). Like other migratory rails, most notably Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinicus*: Farnsworth *et al.* 2015), but also Spotted Crane (*Porzana porzana*), which has occurred 11 times in Greenland (Boertmann 1994) and twice in the eastern Caribbean, at St. Martin and Guadeloupe (Norton *et al.* 2015), Corn Cranes are prone to long distance vagrancy. In our hemisphere, vagrant Corn Cranes have occurred most often in Greenland (25 records from Greenland through 1994, plus three more since then: Boertmann 1994, Boertmann pers. comm.), in Atlantic Canada, in Bermuda, and along the coastal northeastern United States. Table 1 summarizes 35 records from Nunavut, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, St. Pierre et Miquelon, Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, eastern Pennsylvania, Maryland, Bermuda, Guadeloupe, and Brazil. The month of detection is available for 29 of 35 records. No fewer than 26 of these 29 were found in fall: September (5), October (11), or November (10), with others in

January (1 or 2), May (1), June (possibly one), and August (1). The uncertainty between January and June arises from the specimen from Cumberland County NJ in 1856; the ledger entry and most publications indicate January, whereas the specimen label itself indicates June. Curiously, Ball (1944) mentions this specimen at the end of his note concerning a Connecticut specimen, stating that the actual date should be June, “according to Stone.” Thus far we have been unable to find any published statement by Stone clarifying this matter (the record is not mentioned at all in Stone 1937), so it remains unknown whether Stone knew more than what is written on the label.

The broad overall range of fall dates is not surprising for a cryptic, secretive species capable of making further movements after initial arrival in the Western Hemisphere. Interestingly, all seven Bermuda records occurred before November, as did four of seven records from Canada and nearby St. Pierre et Miquelon, and the single record from Guadeloupe. Furthermore, all five September records were from these easterly sites. In contrast, of 14 records from the USA, seven were in November and one (or two) in January. This geographic disparity in dates of detection raises the question of whether the later dates of occurrence to the west and south reflect secondary movements post-arrival.

We contacted three museums (AMNH in NYC; NYSM in Albany; and the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia (ANSP)). We asked them to re-evaluate the ages of their specimens, and if possible, to verify the sexes of these specimens. To assess the age of Corn Crane and related rails, one examines the shape of the medial secondaries in a spread wing, and/or the shape of the primary tips (e.g., see the Yellow Rail account in Pyle 2008, or Green 2004, cited by Pyle). The remiges of juveniles are more pointed than those of adults, and individuals retaining juvenile remiges can be aged as Hatching-Year during August-December and Second-Year during January and later.

The results of our inquiry via data reported to us by museum personnel is interesting. In terms of sex, seven specimens could be determined confidently: three males and four females. However, in terms of age, of 11 specimens (five at AMNH; two at NYSM; and four at ANSP), eight were HY/SY age. Furthermore, AMNH #75834 (not included in the table, details above), was also a HY/SY bird. The only three adult birds recently examined by museum personnel are held at AMNH (#64859, 2 November 1880; #64860, 1 November 1888; and #12537, pre-1900). Most of the pre-1900 specimens were collected after being shot; the two most recent specimens, January 2016, PA and November 2017, NY, were victims of cat predation (PA) and vehicle impact (NY). Two images showing the November 2017 bird found on Long Island are shown on page 45; for additional information regarding this record see Uda (2017) and Feustel (2018).

We recommend that museums with Corn Crane specimens re-evaluate the age/sex of those specimens. It would be interesting to know if other specimens previously described as “adult” were actually HY/SY birds. Similarly, for future occurrences of Corn Crane in this hemisphere, we urge photographers and

Table 1. Records of 35 Corn Crakes (*Crex crex*) known from the Western Hemisphere, including Bermuda, the West Indies, and South America, 1833-2017. Boertmann (1994) summarizes 25 records from Greenland through 1994, and three since (pers. comm.). BAMZ is the Bermuda Aquarium, Museum and Zoo; YPM is the Yale Peabody Museum; see text for other abbreviations.

Date	State/Prov	Location	Sources	Age	Sex	Comments
ca. 1833	MA		Anon. 1833	-	-	
25 Oct 1847	Bermuda	Pembroke Marsh	Baird <i>et al.</i> 1884 Cooke 1914	-	-	
Fall 1854	NJ	Salem, <i>Salem</i>	Walsh <i>et al.</i> 1999 Boyle 2011	HY	-	ANSP #6493
June* 1856	NJ	ca. Bridgeton, <i>Cumberland</i>	Walsh <i>et al.</i> 1999 Boyle 2011	HY	-	ANSP #6492; *label indicates June whereas ledger indicates January; see text
ca. 1857	RI	Cranston, <i>Providence</i>	Editor 1884	-	-	specimen Roger Williams Park Museum
1859	NF	St. Shott's, Cape Race	Godfrey 1966 Dunn <i>et al.</i> 2002	-	-	
Oct, ca. 1874	NS	Pictou	McKinlay 1899 Godfrey 1966	-	-	also Dunn <i>et al.</i> 2002 "shot in a boggy, swampy situation"
2 Nov 1880	NY	Oakdale, <i>Suffolk</i>	Dutcher 1888 Bull 1974	Ad	f	AMNH skin #64859
5 Nov 1883	NY	Cohoes, <i>Albany</i>	J. Bopp 2017 <i>pers.com</i> Bull 1974	HY	f	NYSM #7212 (formerly #463)
18 Aug 1885	NY	Amagansett, <i>Suffolk</i>	Dutcher 1886 Bull 1974	HY	-	AMNH skin #64858
20 Oct 1887	CT	Saybrook, <i>Middlesex</i>	Clarke 1887 Ball 1944	Ad	m	also Dunn <i>et al.</i> 2002 swamp thicket adjacent to salt meadows
ca. 1 Nov 1888	NY	ca. Montauk Pt., <i>Suffolk</i>	Dutcher 1890 Bull 1974	Ad	f	AMNH skin #64860
14 Oct 1889	ME	Falmouth, <i>Cumberland</i>	Brock 1896 Dunn <i>et al.</i> 2002	-	-	
pre 1900	NY	"Long Island"	Bull 1974	Ad	m	AMNH skin #12537; also P. Capainolo, pers. comm.; from Mus. Comp. Zool. 28 Jun 1937
28 Nov 1900	MD	<i>Worcester</i>	Stewart & Robbins 1958	-	-	MD/DC Rarities Committee #1999-088
11 Nov 1905	NJ	Dennisville, <i>Cape May</i>	Walsh <i>et al.</i> 1999 Boyle 2011	HY	-	ANSP #48498; wheat field

24 Sep 1928	Nunavut	Cape Dorset, Baffin Island	Godfrey 1966 Dunn <i>et al.</i> 2002	?	?	
28 Sep 1928	NF	St. Shott's, Cape Race	Peters & Burleigh 1951 - Godfrey 1966	-	-	
18 Oct 1943	CT	Orange, <i>New Haven</i>	Ball 1944 VertNet.org	-	f	YPM #950; "Redbush Farm, one mile east of Housatonic River"
2 Nov 1963	NY	Orient, <i>Suffolk</i>	Latham 1964 Bull 1974	HY	f	NYSM #2565 (formerly #24890)
2 Oct 1978	Bermuda	Pembroke Dump	Amos 1991	-	-	A. Dobson, D. Wingate, pers. comm.
13 Oct 1981	Bermuda	Hog Bay	Amos 1991	-	-	A. Dobson, D. Wingate, pers. comm.
27-29 Sep 1982	Bermuda	Paget	Amos 1991	-	m	specimen BAMZ; 68 g, emaciated; A. Dobson, D. Wingate, pers. comm.
22 Oct 1989	SPM	St. Pierre	Mactavish 1990 Dunn <i>et al.</i> 2002	-	-	
24 Sep 1991	Bermuda	Southampton	Dobson 2002	-	-	crushed on road, not preserved; seen by D. Wingate, pers. comm.
2 Oct 1991	Bermuda	St. Davids	Dobson 2002	-	-	killed by cat; skeleton possibly preserved; seen by D. Wingate, pers. comm.
4-5 May 1993	NS	Brier I, <i>Digby</i>	Dunn <i>et al.</i> 2002 AB 47: 390			
28-30 Nov 1997	NS	Little Harbor, <i>Shelburne</i>	Mactavish 1998	-	-	photographed
2 Nov 2002	NF	Cape Race	Mactavish 2002	-	-	described as 21 st record for NA
28 Sep-2 Oct 2003	Guadeloupe	Petite-Terre	Norton <i>et al.</i> 2004	HY		photographed
5 Oct 2003	Bermuda	Airport, St. David's	Norton <i>et al.</i> 2004	-	f	specimen BAMZ; 120 g, no fat; D. Wingate, pers. comm.
28 Nov 2012	Brazil	Fernando de Noronha Is.	de Burgos & Olmos 2013	-	-	
5 Oct 2014	ME	Monhegan Island, <i>Lincoln</i>	Bevier 2018	HY	-	photographed
early Jan 2016	PA	<i>Wayne</i>	J. Weckstein, <i>pers. comm.</i>	SY	m	ANSP #203182 victim of cat predation
7-9 Nov 2017	NY	Cedar Beach, <i>Suffolk</i>	Feustel 2018	HY	m	AMNH skin #841733; hit by car 9 Nov 2017

birders to assess age and sex as critically as possible. A bias toward HY/SY individuals is expected among vagrant birds of many kinds (Howell *et al.* 2014), but changes in the age ratio and in the overall rate of vagrancy can be indicative of demographic trends within portions of the breeding ranges from which vagrants originate (Veit 2000).

Perhaps the most notable finding to emerge from our re-assessment of Corn Crake records from throughout the Western Hemisphere is the relatively large number of records from recent decades, compared to earlier periods. Each of the four ten-year intervals preceding 2017 yielded at least three Corn Crake records, with five from 1988-1997 and four from 2008-2017. In contrast, four of the eight ten-year intervals from 1898-1977 yielded zero records, and the only ten-year intervals prior to 1978 that yielded more than two records were 1878-1887 (4) and 1848-1857 (3). At a broader scale of 40-year intervals, the most recent period 1978-2017 yielded 15 Corn Crake records, compared to just two from 1938-1977, four from 1898-1937, eight from 1858-1897, and five from prior to 1858. It is possible that, despite the major declines in most western European Corn Crake populations during the 20th Century, one or more populations have been growing in recent decades and acting as a source for potential future records of vagrants to the Western Hemisphere.

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LITTLE EGRET AT GOETHAL'S BRIDGE POND, STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK

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We identified and photographed a hatching-year Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) on Staten Island on 8 July 2017. The bird remained only one more day, to 9 July, but was closely studied and photographed by multiple observers during these two days. It fed with a number of Snowy Egrets (*E. thula*) and Little Blue Herons (*E. caerulea*) during its stay. There is only one prior substantiated occurrence of Little Egret in New York State, at Gardiner County Park, Suffolk County, 20-21 May 2015 (Morris 2015), but there has been a substantial increase in records along the United States' Atlantic coast during the last 20 years, probably reflecting colonization of, population growth within, and vagrancy from, the Caribbean.

RRV found this Little Egret in Goethal's Bridge Pond (near Goethal's Bridge, at the northeastern corner of Staten Island, with a tidal connection to the Arthur Kill) during the late morning of 8 July 2017. JR-G, AC, SW, and IG all managed to re-find the Little Egret during the afternoon of 8 July, and to take a number of photographs (Figures 1, 2, and 3, pp. 47-48). Between that time and the early afternoon of 9 July, a number of additional observers managed to see it. The Little Egret could not be found after that day, despite extensive searching.

IDENTIFICATION

The egret's plumage was entirely white (Fig. 2), with no dusky tips on the primaries as on a Little Blue Heron. Furthermore, the bill lacked the extensively pale bluish base and heavy-based, tapering shape of that species. There were no elongated plumes on the head or chest. Compared to the Snowy Egrets that were present, this bird was noticeably large, long-billed, and thick- and long-legged. Its lores were clearly blue-gray and not yellow. The bill had a subtle paleness around the base, not visible from all angles or in all lights. This, in combination with the absence of breeding plumes, is indicative of a juvenile, or hatching-year individual. The legs were blackish, with yellow toes and a distinct yellow streak running about halfway up the back of the tarsi (Fig 1). In contrast, young hatching-year Snowy Egrets show extensively yellowish legs.

The Staten Island egret resembled a typical juvenile Little Egret in all respects and showed no characters to suggest it might be a hybrid. Characters that would indicate hybrid origin include shape and size intermediate between

Little and Snowy, yellow in the lores and bill, extensively yellowish legs (rather than just the toes and backs of tarsi), and appearance of tufted feathers on the crown, chest, and back. None of these characters was present, and we conclude the bird was a hatching-year Little Egret.

DISCUSSION

In addition to the absence of observable field characters suggestive of hybrid origins for this bird, there are additional, probabilistic arguments that support its identification as a Little Egret. Despite the close similarity and taxonomic affinity of Little and Snowy Egrets, no hybrid between the two species has ever been confidently identified, and there are rather few opportunities for such hybrids to be produced. Perhaps the most likely locations for hybridization to occur would be Barbados in the Lesser Antilles, where both species breed regularly, and coastal areas in the eastern United States and Canada, where vagrant Little Egrets have occurred regularly within the breeding distribution of Snowy Egrets. At Barbados, 15-25 pairs of Little Egrets have bred annually 1997-2006 and later, and a maximum of 10-12 pairs of Snowy Egrets bred there in 2001 (Massiah and Frost 1998, Buckley *et al.* 2009). During the 20 years that Little Egrets have nested at Barbados, only three mixed pairs (Snowy x Little) have been observed, during 1997, and these did not fledge any young (Buckley *et al.* 2009). Little Egrets have also nested at Antigua, in the northern Lesser Antilles (Kushlan and Prosper 2009), and there are 35+ records of birds at Trinidad and Tobago (Hayes and White 2001), though there is no record of nesting there as of now. At all of these sites where Little Egrets are most numerous in the New World, apparently pure individuals are the rule, whereas hybrids are unproven, not suspected, and never invoked in the cases of individual records.

It could be argued that vagrant Little Egrets in the eastern United States and Canada might pair with local Snowy Egrets, but this has never been observed, and pure individuals must be regarded as more likely than potential hybrids throughout this area. Snowy Egrets nesting in North America are unlikely to produce fledged young before late May at the earliest (Parsons and Master 2000), and fledged, independent Snowy Egrets are not commonly observed in coastal NYS and areas further north until August, later than the early July date of the present record (pers. obs.; S. S. Mitra, unpubl. data). In contrast, Little Egrets nesting at Barbados and Antigua nest earlier, with peak egg laying at Barbados December to February (Massiah and Frost 1998, Buckley *et al.* 2009). A bird fledged at Barbados in mid March could quite readily disperse northward to the New York City area before July, and we suspect this is likely the origin of the Goethal's Bridge Pond bird.

The major increase of Little Egrets in the Caribbean began about 1990, following a spate of earlier records during the 1950s and 1960s and then a hiatus during the 1970s and early 1980s (Murphy 1992). Because of the aggregation of

records during the 1950s and 1960s, it seems unlikely that Little Egrets were overlooked over the next 20 years, since birders were clearly aware of their potential vagrancy. Rather, as with other vagrant birds, it seems clear that successive waves of vagrant Little Egrets reached the Western Hemisphere first in the 1950s and then subsequently from the early 1990s to the present (Hafner *et al.* 1994, Lock and Cook 1998, Hayes and White 2001). Nesting was first detected in Barbados in 1994 (Massiah and Frost 1998; though circumstances suggested they may have been nesting earlier than that) and at Antigua in 2008 (Kushlan and Prosper 2009).

The increase of records (to about 40 now; Howell *et al.* 2014) in eastern North America north to Newfoundland, follows the time sequence outlined above, and is consistent with the idea that increased vagrancy is associated with population growth and range expansion (Grinnell 1922, Veit 2000, Veit 2008). Thus, a plausible explanation for the increasing frequency of vagrant records of Little Egrets in North America is that their populations in Europe (Fasola *et al.* 2010), perhaps northwestern Africa, but certainly in the Caribbean, are growing and producing young that are, in turn, dispersing.

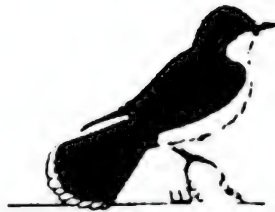
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UNUSUAL DIURNAL ROOSTING BEHAVIOR BY TURKEY VULTURES (*Cathartes aura*) DURING A SOLAR ECLIPSE

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Unusual behavior has been reported among many species of birds during solar eclipses, both in the scientific literature (Christy *et al.* 1933; Wheeler *et al.* 1935; MacCarone 1997; Trigunayat 1997; Tramer 2000), and by citizen scientists on web-based forums (e.g., Van Doren *et al.* 2017). In general, these reports describe behaviors ordinarily associated with dawn or dusk, when normally diurnal species cease activity and retire to roosting sites, and crepuscular and nocturnal species (including nocturnal migrants) become active (Wheeler *et al.* 1935; MacCarone 1997; Trigunayat 1997; Tramer 2000). The simplest inference is that the expression of these atypical behaviors during eclipses is in response to diminished light levels (Tramer 2000). We here describe unusual communal roosting behavior among Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*) in Dutchess County, New York, during a partial solar eclipse on 21 August 2017.

The eclipse (magnitude = 1.0306) occurred when the moon passed between the earth and sun casting an umbral shadow that spanned the continental United States from the Pacific to Atlantic coasts (<https://www.nasa.gov>). Conditions of near-complete darkness prevailed in the Zone of Totality (ZT), a narrow (ca. 115 km wide) corridor extending across 14 states (<https://svs.gsfc.nasa.gov/4518>). The total eclipse began in the continental United States on the Oregon coast (1015 hr PDT), progressed eastwards, and ended when the umbral shadow passed over Charleston, South Carolina (1441 hr EST). During this period, areas outside of the ZT experienced a partial (annular) solar eclipse with varying levels of diminished light intensity, but not complete darkness (<https://www.nasa.gov>).

Our observations were made at the Joseph A. Saggero Memorial Park (41°44.32'N; -73°33.94'W) in Dover Plains, Dutchess County, New York where

Turkey Vultures and lesser numbers of Black Vultures (*Coragyps atratus*) roost communally in riparian forest along Ten-Mile River. This roosting area is structurally similar to others reported in the literature (Prather *et al.* 1976; Coleman and Fraser 1986; Buckley 1996), and consists of large hardwood trees, including American Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*) and Eastern Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*) with a dense, inter-locking canopy. Based on observations made during August-September 2016 and August 2017, we conservatively estimate that a minimum of 25-30 Turkey Vultures and 5-7 Black Vultures frequent the roost. Ingress into the roost during August and September typically begins about 1700 hr with the last birds arriving between 1815-1830 hr; egress occurs the following morning, usually between 0900-1000 hr (Platt and Rainwater, unpubl. data).

The solar eclipse in Dutchess County, New York began at 1323 hr and terminated at 1444 hr. Dutchess County was well beyond the ZT and experienced only a partial eclipse with a 50-75% reduction in light levels (<https://www.nasa.gov>). At 1230 hr, one of us (SGP) entered a concealed observation post in an abandoned storage shed that was regularly used to surveil the vulture roost. The northern and northeastern approaches to the roost are visible from this vantage point, although birds entering the roost from the south and southwest cannot be seen owing to the dense canopy foliage. The weather at our study site on the afternoon of 21 August 2017 was clear with a high temperature of about 30°C.

There were no vultures in the vicinity of the roost until 1335 hr when a single Turkey Vulture was observed soaring overhead. This bird was quickly joined by five other Turkey Vultures, and at 1340 hr, a single Black Vulture (hitherto undetected) entered the roost, followed by a Turkey Vulture at 1405 hr. From 1430-1451 hr, 13 additional Turkey Vultures flew into the roost. Other Turkey Vultures that were soaring overhead slowly descended and appeared to be entering the roost from its southern approaches. Considerable activity was evident within the roost as vultures frequently shifted positions and moved between trees. At 1523 hr a limited egress began when one Turkey Vulture left the roost, landed at a waterhole near the observation post, and began drinking. Seven additional Turkey Vultures departed the roost between 1538 and 1558 hr; one of these vultures also paused to drink at the waterhole, while another landed atop a nearby mound of dirt and assumed a spread-wing posture (described by Kirk and Mossman 1998). Shortly thereafter Turkey Vultures began gathering overhead and slowly descending into the trees; at least 21 were counted entering the roost (1600-1635 hr). The discrepancy between the number of vultures leaving the roost immediately following the eclipse ($N = 8$) and the larger number that returned ($N = 21$) suggests that not all of the vultures which frequent the roost returned during the eclipse. SGP terminated observations at approximately 1645 hr and additional vultures probably arrived at the roost later in the afternoon.

To briefly summarize our observations, Turkey Vultures began gathering above the roost shortly after the eclipse commenced. Ingress was initiated by a Black Vulture with most Turkey Vultures entering the roost after the eclipse was well underway; the last vulture entered the roost shortly after the eclipse had passed. After a brief lull in activity (about 30 minutes), some (but apparently not all) Turkey Vultures left the roost. Only a few minutes after this partial egress ended, a larger number of Turkey Vultures returned to the roost, likely as part of the daily ingress, albeit somewhat earlier than usual. It should be noted that during the eclipse, the sun assumed a subdued dull hue, but otherwise there was little perceptible diminution of light (at least to SGP).

Our observations are noteworthy for two reasons. First, to our knowledge, this is the only report describing the behavior of Turkey Vultures during a solar eclipse. Second, most atypical behaviors reported among birds during solar eclipses occur when light levels are reduced to near-darkness (Christy *et al.* 1933; Wheeler *et al.* 1935; Trigunayat 1997; Tramer 2000). Indeed, in a review of 1350 checklists compiled during the eclipse and submitted to eBird.org, Van Doren *et al.* (2017) noted that observers were less likely to report unusual behaviors where solar obscuration was < 95%. In contrast, we observed Turkey Vultures entering their roost when there was little perceptible diminution of ambient light levels, which appeared near-normal for an August afternoon. Roosting behavior is thought to be triggered when illumination levels fall below (ingress) or rise above (egress) some critical threshold value, although time of day also appears important (Krantz and Gauthreaux 1975; Eiserer 1984). The fact that our observations occurred under conditions of almost full sunlight suggests that either Turkey Vultures are sensitive to even a slight reduction in light level or were responding to as yet unrecognized stimuli.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON – FALL 2017

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September and October were both warmer months than normal throughout the state, but November had normal average temperatures. September averaged about 2-3°F above normal throughout the state. October was one of the warmest on record across the state, with temperatures 6-8° above normal. The average temperature in the eastern part of the state from New York City to Massena was the warmest ever recorded for October. Many migrant passerines lingered due to the warmer conditions. Precipitation throughout the state showed strong gradients. The Regions along Lakes Erie and Ontario had higher than normal precipitation through the fall, adding to the high water level problem on Lake Ontario. Tropical storms José in September and Nate and Phillippe in October all contributed to the weather gradients across the state, with some of the eastern and southern Regions seeing wind and rain, but these storms relieved the drought conditions in the eastern part of the state. Away from the Great Lakes, precipitation was closer to normal levels other than the effects of the tropical storms, which appeared to remain more confined. November's average temperatures and precipitation were about normal, but there were several snow events in the Great Lake Regions.

Through the quarter, the most significant trend was the warm fall that resulted in a high number of passerines lingering in the state. Fall waterfowl counts were reported lower than average in a number of areas, but good numbers were reported at Montezuma NWR. Lower than average hawk counts were recorded at Chestnut Ridge, Franklin Mountain, and Fire Island, but a few species counts were average or above average. High water levels on the Lake Ontario Plain resulted in poorer than expected shorebird habitat and a lower number of records, but the diversity in the western part of the state was as expected. There was low winter finch activity despite a good food supply. In the northern Regions, the excessive natural food supply reduced the number of local feeder birds. Throughout the state, total species recorded in each Region were close to average except in Region 10. The warm fall that delayed the passerine migration led to many late records and an exceptional number of extralimital species in Region 10. In that Region, a bird survey/competition, the Seatuck LI Birding Challenge conducted in September, also added species, bringing the total for the quarter to 328 species recorded. That is really amazing.

Among the exceptionally unusual sightings throughout the state, an Anna's Hummingbird, photographed at a feeder, and a Northern Wheatear were found in Region 1. An immature Calliope Hummingbird was a spectacular visitor at a feeder on Long Island, Region 10. Yellow Rail was photographed in Region 2 when it appeared on the porch of a residence. Say's Phoebes were found in

Regions 3, 9, and 10. Cave Swallows were again reported in Regions 2, 7, and 10. Wood Stork showed up in Region 4. A Corn Crake, NY's first sight record of a living bird, was seen and photographed for two days along the Ocean Parkway on Long Island before it was killed by a car. (See articles pp. 2-10.) A Hammond's Flycatcher was seen by many in Central Park; it lingered for over a month. There were many other rare migrants or extralimital birds that were reported around the state. Many of these are mentioned below but the reader should consult the various Regional reports for highlights.

Among waterfowl, a maximum of 60 Trumpeter Swans was counted at the Northern Montezuma Wetland Complex, mostly birds that breed in the surrounding Regions and possibly a few Canadian birds. Greater White-fronted Goose sightings continue to increase. The species was reported in nine of the 10 Regions. Pink-footed Goose was reported in Regions 7 and 10, and Barnacle Goose in Region 10. The past prediction that the sightings of Pink-footed Goose would continue to increase is indeed happening. Ross's Goose was recorded in four Regions. Two hybrid geese were seen in Region 3, a Barnacle x Cackling and a Snow x Canada. Eurasian Wigeon was found in Regions 3, 6, and 10. King Eiders are annual in small numbers on Lake Ontario, but one found in Region 7 was unusual, as was a Great Cormorant. Exotic waterfowl reported included Whooper Swan (Region 9), Mandarin Duck (Region 9), Common Shelduck (Region 7), and Ruddy Shelduck (Region 2).

A Northern Gannet in Region 2 was seen at three different locations along Lake Ontario as it flew west on 19 November. Pacific Loon and American White Pelican were each reported from two Regions. In addition to the four species of shearwaters seen annually in Region 10, other pelagic birds seen from shore included Dovekie, Razorbill, Brown Booby, Bridled Tern, and Northern Fulmar. Cattle Egrets were reported in six Regions in late October and November, continuing a trend of recent years but also suggesting a higher influx perhaps due to the warm October. Black Vulture sightings are also continuing to increase, especially in the western part of the state. A Sabine's Gull on 7 September in Region 7 and three Long-tailed Jaegers on 5 September in Region 2 were noteworthy sightings. It was another irruptive year for Snowy Owls. They were reported in seven Regions, with the earliest report on 23 October from Region 6 and a total of at least 20 through the end of November in Region 2.

The number of late records for lingering passerines was most evident in the eastern part of the state. In Region 10, 15 species of warblers were seen in the last week of November. Other Regional editors indicated a few late records but did not focus on late departures. A Loggerhead Shrike found on 31 August in Region 1 was present for two days. Connecticut Warblers were reported in seven Regions in the fall. White-eyed Vireo was recorded in four Regions that were outside of their normal occurrence, Regions 2, 4, 6, and 8. Three Bicknell's Thrushes were banded in Region 2, which lies west of their normal migration corridor. Nelson's Sparrow was seen in Regions 1, 2, 6, and 10, and a LeConte's

Sparrow was photographed in Region 10. There were many other noteworthy species which are described in the Regional reports.

The weather was very accommodating for those who wanted to get out and search for fall migrants, and there was more than expected species diversity. Many birders ran down to the New York City area to chase some of the outstanding rarities. Among the rare birds found this quarter, the Corn Crake and the Pink-footed Goose are ABA Code 4 and the Yellow Rail, Brown Booby, and Northern Wheatear are ABA Code 2. In addition to these there were more than twenty extralimital passerines and other species throughout the state. It was a very rewarding fall. The Bird of the Season Award must go to the Corn Crake.

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REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

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September 2017 started cool and wet but was dry and hot toward the end. The average temperature was 65.4°F, 3.2° above normal, and the monthly precipitation at Buffalo-Niagara International Airport was 3.17", 0.75" below normal. The remnants from Hurricanes Harvey and Irma brought only minor rainfall in the first half of September. October was warm and wet. The average temperature was 57.0°, 6.2° above normal, and the monthly precipitation was 5.01", 1.49" above normal. November was mild save for a brief cold spell. The average temperature was 39.8°, 0.9° below normal, and the monthly precipitation was 5.09", 1.08" above normal, and only 0.1" of snow fell, 7.8" below normal. An arctic front on the 9th brought the strongest winds of the month and a winter-like chill to the start of the NYSOA Annual Meeting and Birders Conference hosted by the Buffalo Ornithological Society in Niagara Falls. Weather information was obtained from National Weather Service monthly summaries for the Buffalo-Niagara International Airport.

A **Ross's Goose** at Iroquois NWR was the highlight of migrant geese this season, although this species is now pretty much annual in spring and fall. There were only a handful of Snow Goose reports. Four reports of **Greater White-fronted Geese** were about typical for recent fall seasons. Only several reports of **Brant** were made along Lake Ontario. **Trumpeter Swans** continued at Iroquois NWR as well as a sighting at Olcott. Tundra Swan numbers were unremarkable as there has been an apparent shift to later migration, and perhaps more birds wintering on the Niagara River. There was little that was especially noteworthy for fall duck migration. **Harlequin Ducks** were again at Niagara Falls SP, where

regular in recent years, and one there on 14 October was a bit early. One to two **Eared Grebes** at Batavia WWTP well into November was normal for this location. An **American White Pelican** was sighted along Lake Erie in Hamburg on 3 November.

It was a banner season for **Cattle Egret** sightings, with six reports between 30 October and 9 November. A remarkable 20 (!) were observed by David Crowe in one field in Wellsville, Allegany County on 3 November.

Black Vultures occur year round in Lewiston, with a maximum of nine this season. Bald Eagles continue to increase, with a record count of 44 on the Buffalo Ornithological Society October Count more evidence of that trend. Rough-legged Hawks were present in better numbers than recent years, including reports from 14 locations in November.

Sandhill Cranes were present in some good numbers. Fifteen were sighted on two occasions in November at Iroquois NWR. Jim Berry observed 32 flying in a loose skein over Jamestown on 28 November, which represents a Regional maximum.

There was continued good shorebirding into September in several wet areas on the Lake Ontario plain. A **Long-billed Dowitcher** was identified in Hartland in September, as well as up to three at Iroquois NWR later in the month. Two **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** in the Town of Sheldon 16-22 September allowed many birders to see what was likely the first record for Wyoming County; they were originally found by Ian Davies, Cullen Hanks, and Andrew Spencer. The lone **Purple Sandpiper** report was from Buffalo Harbor on 1 November. Phalarope reports included a Wilson's at Batavia WWTP in early September, a Red-necked on the Niagara River in Buffalo in early October, and two Red/Red-necked on the Niagara River in Buffalo during a wind event on 30 October.

There were three reports of juvenile **Black-legged Kittiwakes**, at least one **Sabine's Gull** (or maybe more if sightings were not of the same bird), and two reports of **Franklin's Gulls** on the Niagara River in November. Unfortunately, none of these could be found during the NYSOA Birder's Conference field trips, although a few **Little Gulls**, the first Iceland Gulls of the season, and the nearly automatic Lesser Black-backed Gull were enjoyed during the conference. A **Forster's Tern** at Lewiston on 19 October was notable. There were several **Parasitic Jaegers** reported from Lake Erie and Lake Ontario in September and October.

The first **Snowy Owl** of the season appeared on 18 November, with reports from seven other locations that followed. **Short-eared Owls** were found at five locations in November. David Junkin banded 48 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** in Wethersfield between 7 October and 8 November, plus there was one identified in Sardinia.

Celeste Morien took several photographs of a hummingbird that appeared at her feeder in Shelby on 20 October that were useful to make an identification as **Anna's Hummingbird**. The bird did not appear after that morning. This is a

Regional first and would be the third for New York State if accepted by NYSARC. As proven once again, it is wise to keep hummingbird feeders maintained deeper into the fall.

The banded, hatch year **Loggerhead Shrike** found at Times Beach NP in Buffalo on 31 August continued to 1 September, thus making this season's report as well; see details in the summer season report. Northern Rough-winged Swallows foraged in the Niagara River rapids off Niagara Falls SP into late November. A Barn Swallow photographed at this location on 7 November was the latest on record for the Region.

Gale VerHague was stunned to find a **Northern Wheatear** plop down in her Forestville backyard in the late afternoon of 22 September. This was the fourth Regional record and first since 2006. The date fits within the window of historical sightings of this species in the northeast.

Two **Golden-winged Warbler** reports in early September were more than for the entire summer season. A **Connecticut Warbler** was found at Lakeside Beach SP on 4 September by Don Bemont. Cape May Warblers had a good showing this fall.

Clay-colored Sparrows continued at Olcott into early October; interesting to see how long they remained at a breeding area. **Nelson's Sparrows** were found at Iroquois NWR on two dates in October by Jim Pawlicki.

Pine Siskins started to appear in mid-October, and, while there were some counts greater than 100 along Lake Ontario, I wouldn't call them abundant this fall. There was a single report of three flyover **Common Redpolls** on the slightly early date of 20 October. No other 'winter' finches were reported.

The 82nd annual BOS October Count was held on the 14th and compiled by Marcie Jacklin. The temperature was approximately 10 degrees above average and made for pleasant birding conditions. The count recorded 162 species. Record high counts included two Trumpeter Swan, 197 Gadwall, 467 Redhead, 27 Red-throated Loon, 44 Bald Eagle, 256 Red-bellied Woodpecker, and 44 Northern Mockingbird. Trouble for American Black Duck continued with a record low of 43.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AmSP – Amherst SP, ERIE; **BeSP** – Beaver I SP, ERIE; **BOSOC** – Buffalo Ornithological Society 14 Oct Count; **BufH** – Buffalo Harbor, ERIE; **BuSP** – Buckhorn I SP, ERIE; **BWWTP** – Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant, GENE; **ChauL** – Chautauqua L, CHAU; **DH** – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; **FLC** – Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, ERIE; **FNSP** – Fort Niagara SP, NIAG; **GHSP** – Golden Hill SP, NIAG; **INWR** – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; **JAS** – Jamestown Audubon Society, CHAU; **LBSP** – Lakeside Beach SP, ORLE; **NF** – Niagara Falls, NIAG; **NFSP** – Niagara Falls SP, NIAG; **NPP** – Niagara Power Project on Niagara R, NIAG; **NR** – Niagara R, ERIE/NIAG; **OOWMA** – Oak Orchard WMA, ORLE/GENE; **PB** – Point Breeze, ORLE; **RWNP** – Reinstein Woods NP, ERIE; **SPWS** – Sinking Ponds Wildlife Sanctuary, ERIE; **TBNP** – Times Beach NP, Buffalo, ERIE; **Tift NP** – Tift Nature Preserve, Buffalo, ERIE; **TWMA** – Tonawanda WMA, GENE/NIAG; **WFWMA** – Watts Flats WMA, CHAU; **WoBSP** – Woodlawn Beach SP, ERIE; **WTSP** – Wilson-Tuscarora SP, NIAG.

WATERFOWL - VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: arr 1, 1 Hartland NIAG 2, 31 Oct (JSt); INWR 8 Nov (PH); BWWTP 14 Nov (RG).
Snow Goose: arr Fredonia CHAU 5 Oct; Hartland NIAG 31 Oct; Yates ORLE 18 Nov; Wethersfield WYOM 23 Nov; only reports.
ROSS'S GOOSE (R1): INWR 21 Nov (PH), has become nearly annual in fall and spring.
Brant: arr 4, 59, 2 GHSP 12, 16, 17 Oct; 19 Yates ORLE 28 Oct; only reports.
Cackling Goose: arr Olcott NIAG 26 Sep; 4 Oakfield GENE 21 Oct; max 5 BWWTP 12 Nov; 4 Wethersfield WYOM 23 Nov; 1-2 reported from 7 other locs.
Mute Swan: max 15 WTSP 10 Nov; Buffalo NR 10 Nov; TBNP 28 Nov; only reports away from L Ontario.
Trumpeter Swan: 2 INWR thru Oct; 2 Olcott NIAG 1 Nov (JSt); only reports.
Tundra/Trumpeter Swan: OOWMA 8 Oct; inconclusive details.
Tundra Swan: arr 3 INWR 16 Oct; max 150 NF 9 Nov.
Wood Duck: max 128 Attica WYOM 18 Sep.
Gadwall: 55 NF 29 Oct; max 110 Tift NP 10 Nov.
Am. Wigeon: max 96 INWR 3 Nov.
Am. Black Duck: 43 BOSOC, record low; max 35 Cuba L 14 Nov.
Blue-winged Teal: max 55 BWWTP 3 Sep; last 3 INWR 9 Nov.
N. Shoveler: max 156, 498, 352 BWWTP 27 Sep, 13 Oct, 8 Nov.
N. Pintail: 111 INWR 25 Sep; 156 OOWMA 19 Oct; max 241 TWMA 26 Oct.

Green-winged Teal: max 248, 645 TWMA 23, 26 Oct.
Canvasback: arr 3 BOSOC; 2 DH 27 Oct; max 45 NF 12 Nov.
Redhead: 112, 200, max 436 Ellery ChauL 28 Oct, 9, 28 Nov; 180 NF 12 Nov.
Ring-necked Duck: arr 5 BWWTP 2 Sep; max 125 Ellery ChauL.
Greater Scaup: 300 NF 12 Nov; max 600 BufH 19 Nov.
Lesser Scaup: arr 2 BWWTP 16 Sep; max 238, 4200 Ellery ChauL 7, 28 (WS).
Harlequin Duck: arr 1, 4 NFSP BOSOC, 31 Oct thru (MG, mob); regular at this location in recent years.
Surf Scoter: arr 26 Olcott NIAG 6 Oct; BWWTP 8 Oct; 52 Buffalo NR 8 Oct; 52 GHSP 16 Oct; 8 DH 11 Nov; 8 Wilson NIAG 12 Nov.
White-winged Scoter: arr Wilson NIAG 15 Sep; max 277 GHSP 16 Oct.
Black Scoter: arr 2 Buffalo NR 9 Oct; 6, 15 GHSP 17, 28 Oct; 9 FNSP 11 Nov; 7 DH 11 Nov; 15 BufH 19 Nov; 7 PB 25 Nov.
Long-tailed Duck: arr LBSP 4 Sep.
Bufflehead: arr 4 Buffalo NR 17 Oct; 139 BWWTP 6 Nov; 176 Ellery ChauL 10 Nov; max 2500 Buffalo NR 24 Nov (AH).
Com. Goldeneye: arr 2 Buffalo NR 17 Oct; 170 NFSP 12 Nov; max 225 Olcott NIAG 23 Nov.
Hooded Merganser: max 200 INWR 12 Nov; 103 Cuba L ALLE 21 Nov; 93 S Dayton CATT 23 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: arr 8 FNPS 28 Sep; max 2450 Buffalo NR 24 Nov (AH).

Ruddy Duck: 65, 648, 350 BWWTP 27 Sep, 7 Oct, 11 Nov; 38, 44 Langford ERIE 20 Oct, 2 Nov; 450 N Harmony ChauL 17 Nov; 92 S Dayton CATT 23 Nov.

Red-throated Loon: arr NFSP 9 Oct; 11 GHSP 12 Oct; max 131 Wilson NIAG 8 Nov; 50 FNPS 12 Nov; 94 PB, 96 Carlton ORLE 18 Nov.

Com. Loon: 11 Yates ORLE 6 Sep; 172 GHSP 20 Oct; max 400 Wilson NIAG 8 Nov.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 47 TWMA 17 Oct; 22 Cuba L ALLE 20 Nov; 18 ChauL 27 Nov.

Horned Grebe: arr 9 GHSP 12 Oct; 40 Sturgeon Pt ERIE 17 Nov; max 45 Carlton ORLE 18 Nov.

Red-necked Grebe: arr Yates ORLE 6 Sep (WD); 2 Olcott NIAG 6 Oct; 59 GHSP 12 Oct; Cuba L ALLE 14 Nov; Buffalo NR 20 Nov.

Eared Grebe: 1-2 BWWTP 1 Sep thru 12 Nov; regular at this location.

AM. WHITE PELICAN (R1): Hamburg ERIE 2 Nov (MD; MZ), becoming more regular.

Am. Bittern: Tift NP 2 Sep; 1, 1 INWR 27, 30 Sep, 2, 30 Oct; TWMA 28 Oct; last INWR 9 Nov (DBem).

Great Egret: 44 OOWMA 4 Sep; max 51 TWMA 10 Oct; last Cuba ALLE 10 Nov.

Cattle Egret: Cuba ALLE 30 Oct (DC); Portland CHAU 2 Nov (CaH); **max 20** Wellsville ALLE 3 Nov (DC, ph.), stunningly high number; 3 Gaines ORLE 3 Nov (JSt); OOWMA 7 Nov (MW); INWR 8 Nov (PH); very strong showing.

Green Heron: last 6 BOSOC.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 4 BufH 29 Nov; has wintered at this loc.

Black Vulture: 2 FNPS 4 Sep (WD); 1, 7, 9 Lewiston NIAG 18 Oct, 11, 23 Nov, regular at location.

HAWKS - LARIDS

Osprey: last Alabama GENE 7 Nov.

Bald Eagle: widespread reports; 44 BOSOC, record for count.

Broad-winged Hawk: last W Almond ALLE 18 Sep.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr Arkwright CHAU BOSOC; reported from 14 locs in Nov.

Virginia Rail: last TWMA 10 Oct.

Sora: Cassadaga L CHAU 15 Sep; Chautauqua CHAU 16 Sep; 2 BWWTP 24 Sep; last BWWTP, INWR 7 Oct.

Com. Gallinule: last 2 INWR 21 Oct.

Am. Coot: max 650 Ellicott ChauL 8 Nov (WS); 200 Celoron ChauL 9 Nov; 193 INWR 21 Nov.

Sandhill Crane: multiple reports in Sep, Oct at and near INWR; 7 WFWMA 17 Sep; 2 JAS 30 Oct; 15 INWR 19, 27 Nov (JK, PH); max 32 Jamestown CHAU 28 Nov (JB), in flight.

Black-bellied Plover: reported from eight locs; max 4 BufH 6 Oct; last 2 INWR 9 Nov.

Am. Golden-Plover: max 20 Hartland NIAG 12 Sep; 13 Sheldon WYOM 16-20 Sep; 17 INWR 25 Sep; last 2 Eden ERIE 3 Nov (SB).

Semipalmated Plover: max 25 BufH 10 Sep.

Killdeer: max 88 Newfane NIAG 8 Oct.

Spotted Sandpiper: last Buffalo NR 31 Oct.

Solitary Sandpiper: last 3 BOSOC.

Greater Yellowlegs: last INWR 8 Nov.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 35 BWWTP 3 Sep; last Attica WYOM 22 Oct.

Ruddy Turnstone: Wellsville ALLE 1 Sep, unusual loc; DH 4 Sep; BufH 5-6 Sep; 1, 1 Buffalo NR 24 Oct, 2 Nov (PY).

Stilt Sandpiper: max 1, 9 Somerset NIAG 5, 9 Sep; Hartland NIAG 6-10, 18 Sep; 2, 2 INWR 13, 27 Sep; S Dayton CATT 16 Sep.

Sanderling: max 22 Buffalo NR 1 Oct; last DH 21 Nov.

Dunlin: 26 FNPS 31 Oct; max 138 INWR 1 Nov; 40 BufH 1 Nov; 50 NFSP 2 Nov; last Wilson NIAG 28 Nov.

Purple Sandpiper: 2 BufH 1 Nov (PY), only rpt.

Baird's Sandpiper: DH, BWWTP 1 Sep; Somerset NIAG 2, 4 Sep; last 1-2 BufH 3-11 Sep; Hartland NIAG 5-9 Sep.

Least Sandpiper: last 2 INWR 16 Oct.

White-rumped Sandpiper: TWMA 5 Sep; 2 BufH 7-8 Sep; 4, 4 INWR 13, 27 Sep; Somerset NIAG 18-19 Sep; TWMA 26 Oct; last Bethany GENE 8 Nov (JM).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 2 Sheldon WYOM 16-22 Sep (ID, CuH, AS); rare for WYOM.

Pectoral Sandpiper: 12, 13 BufH 8 Sep, 9 Oct; Strykersville WYOM 17 Sep; max 20 INWR 27 Sep; last Bethany GENE 8 Nov.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 25 Hartland NIAG 2 Sep; last INWR 26 Sep.

Short-billed Dowitcher: 1, 1 Hartland NIAG 2, 18 Sep; only rpts.

Long-billed Dowitcher: Hartland NIAG 7 Sep (WD); 1, 3 INWR 14, 25 Sep (PH, GL); only reports.

Wilson's Phalarope: 1, 1 BWWTP 1, 4 Sep; only reports.

Red-necked Phalarope: Buffalo NR 4 Oct (SB); only report.

Red/Red-necked Phalarope: 2 Buffalo NR 30 Oct (PY); only report.

Parasitic Jaeger: 1, 2 Hamburg ERIE 4 Sep, 19 Oct (AG, PY); 3, 1 GHSP 12, 20 Oct (WD, DD); NFSP 19 Oct (WD, DD, JP); only reports.

jaeger species: 1, 2 Buffalo NR 15, 17 Oct; only reports.

Black-legged Kittiwake: arr Hamburg ERIE 19 Nov; Buffalo NR 20, 24 Nov; NFSP 26 Nov; all juvs.

Sabine's Gull: NF 30 Oct (BP); BufH 31 Oct (SS); Whirlpool SP NIAG 31 Oct (BP); NFSP 3-8 Nov (BP, WD); juvs; only reports.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 6600, 5450 NFSP 19 Oct, 11 Nov (WD, DD, LS, BF); 2200 NFSP 31 Oct; 3500 NPP 12 Nov.

Little Gull: Buffalo NR 15 Oct; 3 GHSP 16 Oct; max 5 NFSP 19 Oct; Sheridan CHAU 21 Oct; 3 NFSP 5 Nov; DH 10 Nov; 2 Lewiston NR 11 Nov.

Franklin's Gull: NFSP 8 Nov; Buffalo NR 20, 21 Nov (KR); different birds.

Iceland Gull: arr NPP 11 Nov; max 10 Lewiston NR 26 Nov.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 2 NFSP 23 Sep; 2 WoBSP 29 Sep; max 13, 8 Cuba L ALLE 12, 13 Oct (CG, TL); 5 NFSP 10, 17 Nov.

Glaucous Gull: arr NFSP 10 Nov; NPP 19 Nov; Cuba L ALLE 20 Nov; BufH 24 Nov.

Caspian Tern: max 24 BeSP 8 Sep; last 2 BOSOC.

Black Tern: 3, 1 BWWT 3, 4 Sep (RT, GD); only reports.

Com. Tern: max 27 Hamburg ERIE 4 Sep; 4 Bennett Beach ERIE 15 Nov; last 1, 1 BeSP 18, 24 Nov.

Forster's Tern: Lewiston NR 19 Oct (WD); only report.

PIGEONS – PARROTS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: last Tifft NP 24 Sep (JM).

Black-billed Cuckoo: last W Almond ALLE 18 Sep (DH).

Snowy Owl: arr Carlton ORLE 18 Nov; seven other reports.

Barred Owl: Wilson NIAG 14 Oct (WD), unusual loc.

Short-eared Owl: arr Dunkirk Airport CHAU 3 Nov; 3, 1 Hartland NIAG 3, 25 Nov; Shelby ORLE 8, 29 Nov; INWR 25 Nov; Yates ORLE 27 Nov; only reports.

N. Saw-whet Owl: 48 banded Wethersfield WYOM 7 Oct – 8 Nov (DJ); Sardinia ERIE 21 Oct (JP, JM).

Com. Nighthawk: max 13 TWMA, 12 Chautauqua CHAU 6 Sep.

Chimney Swift: last FLC 20 Oct.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Grand I ERIE 10 Oct.

ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD: Shelby ORLE 20 Oct (CM! ph.), brief stops at nectar feeder, Reg first; *intro*.

Red-headed Woodpecker: six locs.

Merlin: 12-21 locs each month.

Peregrine Falcon: 4-8 locs each month.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last Sheridan CHAU 11 Sep.

E. Wood-Pewee: last RWN 9 Oct.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last Tifft NP 19 Sep; 7 other reports; good showing.

Willow Flycatcher: last Gaines ORLE 13 Sep.

Least Flycatcher: last Java WYOM 20 Sep.

E. Phoebe: last TBNP 3 Nov.

Great Crested Flycatcher: last LBSP 17 Sep.

E. Kingbird: last LBSP 7 Sep.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: TBNP thru 1 Sep (TJM).

N. Shrike: arr TWMA 23 Oct.

Yellow-throated Vireo: last BuSP 21 Sep.

Blue-headed Vireo: last WFWMA 27 Oct.

Warbling Vireo: last AmSP 9 Oct (JSa), on the late side.

Philadelphia Vireo: last Ellicottville CATT 1 Oct.

Red-eyed Vireo: last 2 BOSOC.

Com. Raven: 2 Clarence ERIE 30 Sep; 2 RWN 30 Oct; 3 INWR; 2 NF; continuing increase in northern half of Reg.

Purple Martin: max 325 BuSP 6 Sep; last 2 Buffalo NR 13 Sep.

Tree Swallow: max 500 BWWT 8 Sep; last 10, 1 NFSP 5, 7 Nov.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: last 9, 6 NFSP 11, 27 Nov.

Bank Swallow: last 2 NFSP 23 Sep.

Cliff Swallow: last 3 BWWT 16 Sep.

Barn Swallow: last NFSP 7 Nov (GV, ph.), late.

House Wren: last 8 BOSOC.

Winter Wren: arr DH 5 Sep.

Marsh Wren: 2 TBNP 3 Nov; SPWS 4 Nov; 4, 1 OOWMA 7, 10 Nov; INWR 17 Nov; only reports beyond Oct.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last Pendleton NIAG 12 Sep.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr Tift NP 24 Sep.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr BeSP 1 Sep.

NORTHERN WHEATEAR: Forestville CHAU 22 Sep (GV, SB, ph.), 4th Reg rec, remarkable yard bird!

Veery: last 3 N Harmony CHAU 17 Sep.

Gray-checked Thrush: arr Hanging Bog WMA ALLE 8 Sep; 8 Amherst ERIE 6 Oct, nocturnal flight calls; last Gaines ORLE 20 Oct, nocturnal flight call.

Swainson's Thrush: last 7 BOSOC.

Wood Thrush: last 2 BOSOC.

Brown Thrasher: last BOSOC.

Am. Pipit: arr PB 3 Sep; max 48 Somerset NIAG 19 Sep.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: arr Somerset NIAG 11 Oct; GHSP 20 Oct; Hartland NIAG 25 Nov; only reports.

Snow Bunting: arr 14 Yates ORLE, Buffalo NR 28 Oct; max 150 Shelby ORLE 20 Nov.

Ovenbird: last TBNP 9 Oct.

N. Waterthrush: last Tift NP, TBNP 2 Sep.

Golden-winged Warbler: AmSP 2 Sep; WoBSP 9 Sep; only reports.

Blue-winged Warbler: last Carlton ORLE 2 Sep.

Black-and-white Warbler: last AmSP 9 Oct.

Tennessee Warbler: last 2 BOSOC.

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr Tift NP, TBNP 10 Sep; last BuSP 16 Oct.

Nashville Warbler: last Hamburg ERIE 18 Oct.

Connecticut Warbler: LBSP 4 Sep (DBem), only report.

Mourning Warbler: WoBSP 10 Sep; Orchard Park ERIE 25 Sep; only reports.

Com. Yellowthroat: last 5 BOSOC.

Hooded Warbler: 6 LBSP 6 Sep, impressive count.

Am. Redstart: last BOSOC.

Cape May Warbler: last Olcott NIAG 22 Oct; good showing this fall.

N. Parula: last Tift NP 13 Oct.

Magnolia Warbler: last 2 BOSOC.

Bay-breasted Warbler: last BOSOC.

Blackburnian Warbler: last 2 N Harmony CHAU.

Yellow Warbler: last Amherst ERIE 22 Sep.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: last Bond Lake CP NIAG 30 Sep.

Blackpoll Warbler: last 5 BOSOC.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: last 2 BOSOC.

Palm Warbler: last 21 BOSOC.

Pine Warbler: last BOSOC.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: reported from two locations in Nov.

Black-throated Green Warbler: last BOSOC.

Canada Warbler: last Tift NP 10 Sep.

Wilson's Warbler: last Portland CHAU BOSOC.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr BOSOC.

Chipping Sparrow: three locs Nov.

Clay-colored Sparrow: 2, 2, 2, 1 Olcott NIAG 26, 30 Sep, 4, 6 Oct (WD, BP), continued from summer breeding location.

Field Sparrow: 2, 1 BuSP 15, 24 Nov, only reports beyond Oct.

Savannah Sparrow: Batavia GENE 6 Nov, only report beyond Oct.

Nelson's Sparrow: 3, 2 INWR 10, 20 Oct (WD, JP); rare, but regular in fall at this location.

Fox Sparrow: arr TBNP 12 Oct; max 6 AmSP 27 Oct.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Forestville CHAU 6 Sep; last 2 Bond Lake CP NIAG 26 Oct.

White-throated Sparrow: arr Wilson NIAG 15 Sep.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr 2 TBNP 16 Sep.

Scarlet Tanager: last BOSOC.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last AmSP 28 Sep.

Indigo Bunting: last BeSP 9 Oct.

Bobolink: last INWR 27 Sep.

Rusty Blackbird: arr Orchard Park ERIE 16 Sep; max 39 Shelby ORLE 3 Nov.

Baltimore Oriole: last LBSP 15 Sep.

Com. Redpoll: arr 3 GHSP 20 Oct (JP, AG), slightly early, only report.

Pine Siskin: arr 33 BOSOC; max 175 GHSP 20 Oct; 120 LBSP 28 Nov.

REGION 2—GENESEE

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A generally warm, pleasant fall, but with the usual variations to keep things interesting. September started off with the first 11 days cool, then the last 19 days 10°F warmer than normal. There were four consecutive 90° days, with the 24th, 26th, and 27th setting new record highs. Temperatures averaged 65.6°, 3.8° above normal. Rainfall at 1.28" was 1.08" below normal, and 0.35" of the total fell on the 3rd. The 20 days from 9-28 September without rainfall was the longest such stretch since 1977 and the fifth longest on record. October brought warm afternoons for outdoor activities. Mid-September to mid-October was the warmest on record for that period, then it cooled by month's end. It ended the sixth warmest October on record. Temperatures averaged 57.7°, 7.1° above normal. It was also the fourth wettest October on record, with a total of 6.71", 3.99" above normal. However, two days saw record rainfall, 2.39" on the 9th and 2.10" on the 29th, accounting for 2/3 of the total. Finally, November was a cooler month, with temperatures averaging 40.5°, right on normal for the month. A flow of Pacific air kept us warm but damp for much of the month, with the last week rising above normal. The month started with six days of rain followed by an Arctic surge bringing the first 1"+ snowfall in a day at 1.65" on the 5th. It was dry then until our first lake effect event on 19-20 November, with 1.1" in Rochester but over a foot of snow falling in the east end of the Region. Precipitation totaled 4.13", 1.19" above normal, and snowfall added up to 2.6", 4.8" below normal. 7 November, as the first fall day averaging < 32°, gave us 212 days since the last freezing day, the second longest such period on record behind only 216 days in 1938.

In keeping with the weather, this fall was generally pleasant for birding, but also comments generally revolved around relatively low numbers and slow progress for migration. Total species remained close to or above the 10-year averages each month at 221 vs. 215.2 for September, 201 vs. 201.7 for October, and 156 vs. 150.6 for November. The banding total at the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory (BBBO) station echoed the general feel, with 3475 new bands the lowest for the past seven years for which I have data at hand and > two standard deviations below the prior 6-year average. The total species reported for the Region for the season was 253 plus one likely escape—Ruddy Shelduck at the DEC Avon ponds near Avon on 1-11 November. This season, eBird downloads after eliminating out-of-Region records were approximately 19,580, 18,252, and 14,826 for the three months, respectively.

Moving to the checklist, waterfowl movement was slow in September, with only three species' maxima even reaching 100 birds. Numbers were even low in the Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area (NMWMA) for

waterbirds generally. Snow Goose, Brant, and Cackling Goose were noted at relatively early arrival dates. As the season progressed through October, waterfowl numbers remained low for most species, though there were a few days with good Brant numbers, and scoters, Long-tailed Duck, and Red-breasted Merganser increased as expected. Greater White-fronted Goose and Harlequin Duck arrived and Cackling Goose numbers increased. The expected loons and grebes were reported in decent numbers on occasion but well below historical expectations. November saw some increase in waterfowl maxima, a few larger loon counts, and even a triple digit peak for Red-necked Grebe. Ross's Goose and King Eider at five locations were additions for the month, as well as the Ruddy Shelduck at the DEC ponds. Among the other interesting waterbirds, we had a Northern Gannet spotted moving west along the south shore of Lake Ontario on 19 November tracked with times of sighting at several sites. We also had the recently typical Cattle Egrets in early November and a *Plegadis* ibis species on 5 November. Departure dates were all unremarkable. Wrapping up this section, one or two Black Vultures were reported in each month.

Among the hawks, there were no focused efforts at counts. The numbers of Bald Eagle reports to eBird were very good—167 and 117 lines, respectively, for October and November. There was only a single Northern Goshawk report on 27 November and few Red-shouldered and Broad-winged Hawk reports. Rough-legged Hawk arrived on 27 October, a typical arrival date, with only one other October report, then about 19 individuals in November.

The rails and their allies is usually a sparse section of this report, but this season a special occurrence was a **Yellow Rail** photographed by Jodie Stahl on her deck in the Town of Brockport on 15 September. This is the fifth record for the Region and the first since 1935. Sandhill Cranes lingered through the season, with numbers to 94 in the NMWMA on 29 November, with higher numbers nearby and a few days later even in this Region. Cranes were reported from at least seven locations in the Region.

There was little habitat for shorebirds in the Region, with larger bodies of water still high into September and little rain in August, leaving fields dried up. Still, twenty-five species for the season is a good showing for variety, with Whimbrel, Red Knot, and Wilson's and Red-necked Phalaropes among those present. Numbers remained low other than a couple of counts of 117 for Killdeer in September and 175 for Dunlin on 1 November, even those low by historical standards. There were also no unusual departure dates. The high(maybe low)light in this group was Upland Sandpiper unreported for the season and thus for the year for the Region. Purple Sandpiper was reported only as a single on 28 October at Sodus Point.

Good numbers of jaegers were seen along the Lake Ontario shore, including: three Long-tailed Jaegers on 5 September by Andy Guthrie, Pomarine Jaegers on 10 and 28 October and 12 November, and about 20 Parasitic Jaegers and eight jaeger sp. seen scattered from 1 September to 27 November. Black-legged Kittiwake was noted near the north end of Irondequoit Bay on 26

November and farther into the Bay on the next day. Passing Bonaparte's Gulls usually bring us the rarer smaller gulls, and Bonaparte's numbers were generally low excepting a day with a peak of 1000 on 16 October. On that date at least seven Little Gulls were reported. More Little Gulls were then reported off and on through 4 November, and a first winter Franklin's Gull was found by Greg Lawrence at Sodus Point on 1 November. We occasionally have interesting gatherings of our regular gulls, and two of these were 5000+ Ring-billed Gulls spotted passing Geneseo by Jim Kimball on 22 November, and 2500 Herring Gulls in the Town of Riga on 7 November by Brad Carlson. Good numbers of Lesser Black-backed Gull were reported each month. Iceland Gull arrived on 20 November and Glaucous Gull on 3 November. Other than the last Black Tern report, an early departure on 5 September, our regular terns stayed to normal departure dates in the second half of October.

Non-passerine landbirds often receive scant attention this season. We had only two reports of the Eurasian Collared-Doves at the Greenwell farm in the Town of Hamlin on 29 and 31 October. The first Snowy Owl report was from the Summerville Pier at the mouth of the Genesee River on 11 November, but by the 29th at least 20 individuals had been reported from 15 locations; a start to a BIG Snowy Owl winter. Short-eared Owl arrived on 15 October and good numbers were reported from the usual locations through the season including on the first of the DEC's bi-weekly surveys on 21 November. A N. Saw-whet Owl responded to whistled imitations and flew at our Muck Race team in the Town of Savannah on 15 September. Other saw-whets were found and banded in the BBBO banding area in mid-September. Common Nighthawk numbers were poor this season, but there were several good Chimney Swift tallies in late September. Numbers for all three falcon species were good for each month.

All of the really expected passerine species were reported. Only a few of the usually early departing or rarer species were "missed". Among the special finds were: three White-eyed Vireos, one of them banded at BBBO and the last on 13-14 November in Webster; 22 Cave Swallows from 23 October to 8 November; three Bicknell's Thrushes banded on 22, 24, and 26 September; a Golden-winged, five Connecticut and one Prairie Warblers banded in September; a Nelson's Sparrow banded on 28 September; and a female Summer Tanager, a 25th Regional record, photographed by Jonathan Blades during a brief stop at his Irondequoit feeder on 29 November. Overall the migration seemed slow and weak for numbers both from field reports and from the BBBO banding tallies. Departure dates were typical until quite a few toward the late end of expectations in November. Still, only House Wren was record late on 17 November. Some of the late dates were for species for which some individuals fairly regularly linger into winter making the assignment of departures dates a judgment call. Lapland Longspur and Snow Bunting arrived at normal dates of 1 October and 22 October, respectively. Blackbird counts were generally poor. The predicted possibility of a finch winter did not reach us this season, with only

a lone Red Crossbill on 6 October, small numbers of Common Redpoll and Pine Siskin, and a lone Evening Grosbeak on 4 November reported from that group.

As usual, the BBBO banding summary provides a chance to make some more quantitative comparisons of this fall with the past six years. There actually were few species whose totals varied significantly from their averages. It was a down year in the Black-capped Chickadee seesaw, with only 14 banded for the fall vs. 236 last year. Hermit Thrush, Cedar Waxwing, Nashville Warbler, and Yellow Warbler were way below normal; Blackpoll Warbler was back toward long-term normal; and Cape May Warbler was up, though banding numbers for that species are typically so low that such a note means little even if the calculation appears statistically significant. The records section to follow will provide many examples of dates and numbers to help complete the picture of this fall's birding scene.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

b – banded; **BB** – Braddock Bay, T Greece, MONR; **BB-WS** – west spit at the mouth of Braddock Bay; **BBBO** – Braddock Bay Bird Observatory, usually banding station near end of Manitou Beach Rd west of Braddock Bay; **BCH** – Bear Creek Harbor and off shore, WAYN; **CL** – Conesus L, LIVI; **DEP** – Durand-Eastman P, MONR; **G** – T Greece, MONR; **HANA** – High Acres Nature Area, T Perinton, MONR; **H** – T Hamlin, MONR; **HB** – Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; **HB-WE** – West End Trail in HB includes Devil’s Nose area; **IB-S** – LaSalle Landing P, South end of Irondequoit Bay; **M** – along Manitou Beach Rd NE of Parkway including the BBBO banding station, MONR; **MAC** – Montezuma Audubon Center, T Savannah, WAYN; **MP** – Mendon Ponds P, MONR, **NMWMA** – Northern Montezuma WMA (formerly Northern Montezuma Wetlands Complex), WAYN; **NMWMA (MRdM)** – Morgan Rd Marshes area; **NMWMA (SCU)** – Sandhill Crane Unit; **NMWMA (VDS)** – Van Dyne Spoor area; **OB** – Ontario Beach, Charlotte, MONR; **OCP** – Oatka Creek P, MONR; **PB** – Point Breeze area, ORLE, nw border of Regions 1 & 2; **Spt** – Sodus Pt, WAYN; **TCEA** – Twin Cedars Environmental Area, Avon DEC; **W** – Town of Webster, MONR; **WP** – Webster P, MONR.

WATERFOWL – VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: arr TCEA 5 Oct (GL); Webster 31 Oct (JiM).

Snow Goose: arr 2 HB 28 Sep, early; max 50 CL 23 Nov.

Ross’s Goose: arr TCEA 21 Nov (MW), only report.

Brant: arr 5 HB 30 Sep (PMar, DSh), early; max 620 HB 16 Oct (PMar, MG); 600 Wolcott WAYN 27 Oct (W&MR); last 3 Spt 17 Nov.

Cackling Goose: arr HB 29 Sep (MG, PMar); max 10 HB 19 Oct (JD); total 30 at 11 loc Oct; total 39 at 14 loc 5-27 Nov.

Canada Goose: max 5600 TCEA 8 Nov.

Mute Swan: max 97 G (Round Pd) 19 Nov (NK).

Trumpeter Swan: max 60 NMWMA (Armitage Rd) 11 Nov (JMcG, JCo, SB).

Tundra Swan: arr 7 G (Round Pd) 21 Oct; max 160 G (Round Pd) 9 Nov (MG); 150 CL 24-25 Nov (TB).

RUDDY SHELDUCK: 1 TCEA 1-11 Nov (MW, 4 oth obs), likely escape.

Wood Duck: max 52 NMWMA (Marten Tract) 15 Sep, low fall max.

Gadwall: max 150 G (Northrup Crk) 25 Nov (JMcG, AS, SD, TBr).

Am. Wigeon: max 300 G (Round Pd) 28 Oct (KG), good count.

Am. Black Duck: max 42 near Clarendon 12 Nov, low.

Mallard: max 290 NMWMA (Armitage Rd) 11 Nov.

Blue-winged Teal: max 40 NMWMA (Marten Tract) 5 Sep; last 5 HANA 17 Nov.

N. Shoveler: max 30 NMWMA (Marten Tract) 5 Sep.

N. Pintail: max 146 HB 16 Oct, low max.

Green-winged Teal: max 250 NMWMA (MRdM) 8 Oct.

Canvasback: arr HB 31 Oct; max 30 T Groveland LIVI 1 Nov, low.

Redhead: max 800 CL 25 Nov.

Ring-necked Duck: arr 2 G (Salmon Crk) 30 Sep; max 86 G (Round Pd) 19 Nov.

Greater Scaup: arr 2 BB-ES 2 Sep; max 76 HB 20 Nov, low max.

Lesser Scaup: arr 5 BB & 2-3 HB 30 Sep; max 110 G (Round Pd) 19 Nov, low max.

King Eider: arr 7 f, 1 imm m HB & 1f OB 18 Nov (AGu); 4 f, 1 imm m HB 19 Nov (AGu, ph); 4 West Port Bay WAYN 19 Nov (W&MR); 1 ad m G (off E. Manitou Rd) 18-23

Nov (GL, 30+ oth obs, ph); 1 imm m W (off Sandbar P) 25 Nov (JeB, KB, CW).

Harlequin Duck: arr f SPt 7-10 Oct (JW, MG, ph, 4 oth obs); 1 f IBO 11-25 Oct (MG, ph, 17+ oth obs); 1 f G (off Edgemere Dr) 29 Oct (JeB, LiB, AGu); 1 f G (off E. Manitou Rd) 19 Nov (A&DGu); 1 f HB 24 Nov (D&MK, ph).

Surf Scoter: arr HB 22 Sep; max 76 HB 16 Oct.

White-winged Scoter: arr 2 HB 22 Sep; max 367 HB 16 Oct, low max.

Black Scoter: arr HB 28 Sep; max 108 G (off Edgemere Dr) 29 Oct.

Long-tailed Duck: arr 3 HB & 5 & 12 G (off Edgemere Dr) 16 Oct; max 645 HB 6 Nov.

Bufflehead: arr BB-ES 11 Sep; max 210 CL 25 Nov; 150 Silver L – S, WYOM 24 Nov.

Com. Goldeneye: arr 2 HB 26 Oct; max 180 Broadway Rd WAYN 11 Nov.

Hooded Merganser: max 69 IBO 26 Nov, low max.

Com. Merganser: max 350 G (Northrup Crk) 22 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: arr HB 5 Sep (DTe), early; 1700 G (Long Pnd) 19 Nov (NK); 1350 G (Cranberry Pnd) 23 Nov (AGu); max 1763 G (Edgemere Dr) 26 Nov (JeB, CW).

Ruddy Duck: arr Groveland Pnd 25 Sep (KC), early; max 73 Sandy Bottom P, Honeoye L ONTA 4 Nov.

Red-throated Loon: arr 3 HB 21 Sep (MG, PMar), early; max 341 HB 18 Nov, low max.

Com. Loon: 113; 150 HB 13 Oct, 1st date over 100; max 412 HB 17 Oct, low max; 307 HB 6 Nov.

Horned Grebe: arr HB 5 Sep; max 98 HB 17 Oct, low max.

Red-necked Grebe: max 128 HB 25 Nov (AGu), low relative to recent late peaks.

N. Gannet: 1 imm heading W along S shore Lake Ontario 19 Nov; 10:15 AM IBO (NK, RBA YBC); G (Edgemere Dr) (JeB); 11:05 G (off E Manitou Rd) (DHo, DSh); 1:00 PM HB (AGu, PMar); & later off MONR/ORLE county line (AGu, ph).

Double-crested Cormorant: max 2000 OB 2 Sep.

Great Egret: last LaSalle Landing P MONR 5 Nov (JWi).

CATTLE EGRET (R2): arr T Ogden MONR 3 Nov (GL, BCar, JW, MG, ph); near G (Buck Pnd) 6 Nov (JiB); sev others just outside Region early Nov.

Green Heron: last DEP 16 Oct.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 16 NMWMA (MRdM) 1 Sep; last G (Salmon Crk) 21 Oct.

plegadis ibis species: NMWMA (Armitage Rd) 5 Nov (LSt, TS., 8+ oth obs).

Black Vulture: ICW 21 Sep (RRy); HANA 3 Oct (SJ); LSP 22 Oct (GL); 2 LSP 18 Nov (RSt).

HAWKS – LARIDS

Osprey: last HANA 17 Oct (MG).

Bald Eagle: 167 lines eBird many loc Oct; 116 lines eBird 39+ loc Nov; good numbers.

N. Goshawk: DEP 27 Nov (MSh, ph), only rep.

Red-shouldered Hawk: only 3 rep.

Broad-winged Hawk: N Wolcott WAYN 25 Oct, only rep.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr G 27 Oct, typical arrival date; 16 rep of approx 19 ind Nov.

YELLOW RAIL: near Brockport 15 Sep (JSt, ph), 5th Reg record and 1st since 1935, *intro*.

Virginia Rail: last MP 7 Nov.

Com. Gallinule: max 75 NMWMA (VDS) 3 Sep; last 2 NMWMA (VDS) 3 Nov.

Sandhill Crane: 47 NMWMA (Armitage Rd) 23 Nov (MTe); max 94 NMWMA (Rt 89 n of end of East Rd) 29 Nov (MTe, DSh), *intro*.

Black-bellied Plover: max 29 HB 22 Oct; last Perry Rd WYOM 9 Nov.

Am. Golden-Plover: max 32 T Elba GENE 3 Sep; last 3 HB 28 Oct, early dep.

Semipalmated Plover: last G (Salmon Crk) 28 Oct.

Killdeer: max 117 H 2 Sep & Rose Valley Rd WAYN 16 Sep; H 5 Sep (W&MR); last 6 Roseburgh Rd LIVI 21 Nov (KC).

Spotted Sandpiper: last BB-ES 19 Oct.

Solitary Sandpiper: last NMWMA (MRdM) 7 Sep.

Greater Yellowlegs: last Webster Arboretum 14 Nov, ph.

Lesser Yellowlegs: last 2 TCEA 27 Oct.

Whimbrel: BB-ES 2 Sep (AGu); last SPt 19 Sep (GF, W&MR).

Ruddy Turnstone: last BB-ES 9 Oct.

Red Knot: BB-ES 2-24 Sep (14+ obs).

Stilt Sandpiper: last 2 MAC 15 Sep, early dep..

Sanderling: max 42 BB-ES 2 Sep (BCar, AGu); last 7 OB 17 Nov.

Dunlin: arr OB 5 Sep; max 175 IBO 1 Nov (DHo, DSh), low max; last BB-ES & SPt 21 Nov.

Purple Sandpiper: arr SPt 28 Oct, only rep.

Baird's Sandpiper: last SPt 19 Sep.

Least Sandpiper: last off G 21 Oct.
White-rumped Sandpiper: last SPt 17 Nov.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 26 NMWMA (Marten Tract) 20 Oct, low max; last T Riga MONR & NMWMA (Armitage Rd) 6 Nov.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 40 NMWMA (Marten Tract) 1 Sep, low max; last 2 G (Buck Pnd) 27 Oct.
Short-billed Dowitcher: last Shore Acres NMWMA (Marten Tract) 15 Sep.
Long-billed Dowitcher: last NMWMA (MRdM) 8 Oct, early dep. (JMcG, SP).
Wilson's Snipe: 1B M 20 Oct, unusual capture; last NMWMA (Guy Baldassare Marsh) 22 Nov.).
Am. Woodcock: Honneoye Falls 19 Oct (BCae), not many late fall birder reports.
Wilson's Phalarope: arr NMWMA (Marten Tract) 3-5 Sep (BP, 8 oth obs).
Red-necked Phalarope: arr NMWMA (Marten Tract) 2-9 Sep (37+ obs); 2 NMWMA (Marten Tract) 6, 7 Sep (JWi, RMi).
phalarope sp.: HB 31 Oct.
Pomarine Jaeger: arr HB 10 Oct (AGu); HB 28 Oct (AGu, AGa); Brown Rd, T Wolcott WAYN 13 Nov (W&MR).
Parasitic Jaeger: arr 2 HB 1 Sep; HB 5 Sep; total approx 14 at 5 loc 5-28 Oct (9 obs); 3 loc 4, 25, 27 Nov.
jaeger species: HB 1, 7, 9 Sep; approx 14 at 3 loc 5-31 Oct (6 obs); last Brown Rd, T Wolcott WAYN 8 Nov (W&MR).
LONG-TAILED JAEGER: 3 HB 5 Sep (AGu).
Black-legged Kittiwake: arr imm IBO and nearby 26 Nov (CW, AGu, BriM); imm IB-W 27 Nov (KH).
Bonaparte's Gull: max 1000 HB 16 Oct (MG, PMar); 200 IB-W 26 Nov.
Little Gull: arr 7 ad HB 16 Oct (MG, PMar, AGu); 2 ad HB 16 afternoon Oct (AGu, ph); 1 ad G (off Edgemere Dr) 17 Oct (JiB); 1 ad HB 18 Sep (AGu); 3 ad HB 26 Oct (MG, PMar); 3 ad HB 27 Oct (AGu); 1 G (off Edgemere Dr) 29 Oct (JeB, LiB, AGu); 1 ad T Huron WAYH 2 Nov (W&MR); 1 ad HB 4 Nov (BCar, AGa, DSh).
FRANKLIN'S GULL: 1 1st win SPt 1 Nov (GL).
Ring-billed Gull: max 5000+ Nations Rd, Geneseo 22 Nov (JK).
Herring Gull: max 2500 T Riga 7 Nov (BCar).
Iceland Gull: arr HB & HANA 20 Nov; 2 Mill Seat landfill, T Riga 23 Nov (AGu, BriM).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: total 8 at 4 loc 16-28 Sep; total 7 at 6 loc Oct; 13 rep, 21 ind 8 loc 7-26 Nov.
Glaucous Gull: arr T Riga 3 Nov; total 6 at 5 loc 3-26 Nov.
Great Black-backed Gull: max 50 OB 21 Sep (LM).
Caspian Tern: last G (Salmon Crk) & IBO 16 Oct.
Black Tern: last 5 HB 5 Sep (DTe), early dep.
Com. Tern: last CL 20 Oct.
Forster's Tern: last 2 SPt 28 Oct (W&MR).

PIGEONS – PARROTS

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: 2 H (Greenwell farm) 29, 31 Oct (AGu), surprising how rarely reported.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: last NMWMA (Marten Tract) 10 Sep.
Black-billed Cuckoo: last G 9 Sep.
Snowy Owl: arr Summerville Pier 11 Nov; total approx 20 at 15 loc 11-29 Nov (50+ obs).
Short-eared Owl: arr IBO 15 Oct; max 15 Nations Rd IBA 10 Nov.
N. Saw-whet Owl: NMWMA (Savannah) 15 Sep (Windbirders), during Muck Race; M (BBBO) 14 Oct (CS); 6b M (BBBO) 20 Oct (TS).
Com. Nighthawk: last Silver L – S, WYOM 18 Sep.
Chimney Swift: 250 Piffard LIVI 18 Sep & York Central School, Greiggsville 25 Sep; max 310 Culver Rd, T Irondequoit 26 Sep (KS); last 3 N Irondequoit Crk Trail 8 Oct.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Penfield 10 Oct; total b 8 BBBO 9-17 Sep.
Red-headed Woodpecker: 1-8 HB thru; WP 24 Sep; 8 Irondequoit Crk 7 Oct (SG); Co Rd 10 LIVI 19 Nov; T Albion 2 Nov.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: total 14 ind 12 loc 7-29 Nov (18 obs), good number late in season.
Am. Kestrel: 25 rep, 25 ind 19 loc Nov, good number late in season.
Merlin: 22 rep, 22 ind 17 loc Sep; total 24 at 11 loc Oct; 24 rep, 21 ind 19 loc 1-25 Nov.
Peregrine Falcon: 19 rep, 21 ind 11 loc Sep; total 24 at 16+ loc Oct; 18 rep, 17 ind 14 loc Nov.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last BB-ES 6 Sep.
E. Wood-Pewee: last Ellison P, T Penfield 4 Oct.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: total b 10 BBBO 1-11 Sep; last S Conesus 20 Sep.

Acadian Flycatcher: last NMWMA (Carncross Rd) 1-5 Sep (GD, JMcG), late.

Alder Flycatcher: last 2 Ganondagan 10 Sep.

Willow Flycatcher: last Ontario Center Greenway P 11 Sep (JWi).

“Trail’s Flycatcher: last 3 NMWMA (VDS) 16 Sep (RB, NK). BBBO 11 Sep.

Least Flycatcher: last 1M (Owl Woods) 16 Sep.

E. Phoebe: last 2 Canadice Lake & 1 WAYN 20 Oct.

Great Crested Flycatcher: last 2 M (Owl Woods) 17 Sep.

E. Kingbird: last CL Inlet 10 Oct (KC), late.

N. Shrike: arr Rochester 27 Oct; 20 rep 13 ind 12 loc Nov.

WHITE-EYED VIREO (R2): 1 Brown Rd, T Wolcott WAYN 3 Oct (W&MR); 1b BBBO 27 Sep; 1 Webster Arboretum 13-14 Nov (JiM), late.

Yellow-throated Vireo: last Palmyra WAYN 19 Sep.

Blue-headed Vireo: last 1b BBBO 27 Oct.

Warbling Vireo: last Indian Fort Pres, Geneseo 1 Oct.

Philadelphia Vireo: total b 9 BBBO 4-24 Sep.

Red-eyed Vireo: total b 84 BBBO 1 Sep - 6 Oct; last N Irondequoit Crk Trail 8 Oct.

Am. Crow: max 5200 U of Rochester 26 Nov (JG).

Fish Crow: 1-14 resident in the area from the mouth of the Genesee River west into N Greece; occasional singles elsewhere.

Purple Martin: max 250 Summerville Pier 5 Sep; last T Bergen GENE 25 Sep.

Tree Swallow: max 800 NMWMA (MRdM) 8 Oct, low max; last MAC 21 Oct.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: last MAC 21 Oct.

Bank Swallow: last NMWMA (VDS) & MAC 16 Sep.

Cliff Swallow: last 4 HB 4 Oct.

CAVE SWALLOW: arr 3 HB 23 Oct (AGu); SPt 3 Nov (MG, ph); 11 HB 5 Sep (RB, NK, JiM); 3 HB 5 (later) Sep (JiM); 1; 2 G (Buck Pnd) 5; 6 Nov (JiB); 1 Lakeshore Marshes WAYN 8 Nov (W&MR), *intro*.

Barn Swallow: max 300 NMWMA (Marten Tract) 21 Sep; last HB 24 Oct.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 32 WP 26 Nov, low max; max b 1 BBBO 9 days; total b 9 BBBO 7 Sep - 27 Oct, low, *intro*.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 10 WP 3 Oct; max 19 WP 26 Nov, only double digit tallies.

Brown Creeper: total b 64 BBBO 21 Sep - 27 Oct.

House Wren: last DEP 17 Nov (DH), Reg record late.

Winter Wren: arr 1b BBBO 10 Sep; max b 10 BBBO 22 Sep; max 16 HB-YC 1 Oct (R&SS, RB); total b 78 BBBO 10 Sep-27 Oct.

Marsh Wren: last NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit) 29 Nov (DSh, MTe), late.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last HB 8 Oct.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr BB 20 Sep; max 36 HB-YC 20 Oct (DBe, RSp), low max; max b 52 BBBO 16 Oct; total b 293 BBBO 25 Sep - 28 Oct.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Rochester 2 Sep; max 28 M (Owl Woods) 1 Oct, low max; max b 156 BBBO 16 Oct; total b 441 BBBO 15 Sep - 27 Oct; last BB-WS 25 Nov (AGu), late.

Veery: total b 21 BBBO 4-26 Sep; last IB 28 Sep.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: max b 10 BBBO 25 Sep; total b 97 BBBO 7 Sep- last 6 Oct; last HB-WE 13 Oct.

Gray-cheeked/Bicknell’s Thrush: max b 10 M 26 Sep; total b 56 BBBO 13 Sep - last 6 Oct.

BICKNELL’S THRUSH: 1 each b BBBO 22, 24, 26 Sep.

Swainson’s Thrush: max 19 Seneca Parkway, Rochester 22 Sep (RB); max b 18 BBBO 13 Sep; total b 189 BBBO 1 Sep - last 16 Oct.

Hermit Thrush: arr migr BB 21 Sep; max 25 HB-WE 13 Oct (RSp); max b 20 BBBO 16 Oct; total b 98 BBBO 23 Sep - 28 Oct.

Wood Thrush: last 2 IBO 13 Oct.

Am. Robin: max 400 Lehigh Swamp 22 Nov (CN).

Gray Catbird: max 31 WP 13 Sep (RSp); 30 MP 16 Sep (TL); total b 110 BBBO 1 Sep - 27 Oct; last 1 b BBBO 28 Nov (AP).

Brown Thrasher: last HANA 14 Oct.

Am. Pipit: arr BB-ES 2 Sep; last 2 HB 15 Nov.

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: arr HB 1 Oct.

Snow Bunting: arr BB-ES 22 Oct; 150 H 2 Nov; max 200 West Port Bay WAYN 17 Nov (W&MR).

Ovenbird: total b 9 BBBO 2 Sep - last 5 Oct.

N. Waterthrush: last HB-YC 17 Sep.

Golden-winged Warbler: 1B BBBO 18 Sep, now scarce in fall, late.

Blue-winged Warbler: last St. John Fisher Natural Area 19 Sep.

Black-and-white Warbler: last H 20 Sep.

Tennessee Warbler: last BB - Dalheim Unit 14 Oct.

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr WP 13 Sep; BB-ES 30 Sep; Indian Fort Pres, Geneseo 1 Oct; 1b BBBO 20 Oct; last 1b BBBO 15 Nov, late.

Nashville Warbler: total b 17 1 Sep – last 21 Oct.

Connecticut Warbler: arr BB 12 Sep (MG); 1 each b BBBO 13, 14, 19, 27, Sep.

Mourning Warbler: last 1b BBBO 4 Oct, late.

Com. Yellowthroat: total b 88 BBBO 1 Sep – 5 Oct; last G (Salmon Crk) 25 Nov (AG, AW), late.

Hooded Warbler: last 1b BBBO 6 Oct.

Am. Redstart: total b 65 M 1 Sep – 6 Oct; last CL inlet 24 Oct.

Cape May Warbler: last 1b BBBO 11 Oct.

N. Parula: last BB-ES 1 Oct.

Magnolia Warbler: max b 18 BBBO 10 Sep; total b 124 BBBO 1 Sep - 3 Oct; max 25 M (Owl Woods) 11 Sep; last Beechwood SP WAYN 17 Oct.

Bay-breasted Warbler: total b 23 BBBO 1-21 Sep; last IBO 13 Oct.

Blackburnian Warbler: last T Gates MONR 7 Oct.

Yellow Warbler: 1 each b BBBO 2, 7 Sep, low; last Sherburne P, Walworth WAYN 23 Sep.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: last 1 b BBBO 5 Oct.

Blackpoll Warbler: max b 21 BBBO 4 Oct; total b 124 BBBO 1 Sep – last 23 Oct; *intro*.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: total b 33 BBBO 1 Sep – 5 Oct; last 3 T Conesus LIVI & 1 Webster Arboretum 6 Oct.

Palm Warbler: arr HB 2 Sep; max 17 G (Burger P) 5 Oct (KG); last NMWMA (Marten Tract) 14 Oct.

Pine Warbler: last HB 14 Oct.

Prairie Warbler: 1 b BBBO 21 Sep, only report.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 30 G (Canal P) H 14 Oct; max b 22 BBBO 10 Oct; total b 35 BBBO 23 Sep – 18 Oct; last NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit) 29 Nov (DSh, MTe), late.

Black-throated Green Warbler: total b 9 BBBO 1-28 Sep; last 1 Penfield & 3 G(Burger P) 8 Oct.

Canada Warbler: last G 20 Sep.

Wilson's Warbler: total b 27 BBBO 1-30 Sep; last T Wolcott WAYN 6 Oct.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

E. Towhee: last WP 29 Nov (RSP), late.

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Ellison P, Penfield 20 Oct.

Chipping Sparrow: last Highland P, Rochester 28 Nov (KH), late.

Field Sparrow: last 2 TCEA 4 Nov (CG).

Savannah Sparrow: last NMWMA (Armitage Rd) 13 Nov (BF).

NELSON'S SPARROW (R2): 1 b BBBO 28 Sep.

Fox Sparrow: arr 1b BBBO 5 Oct; last Highland P, Rochester 19 Nov (KH).

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Oatka Crk P MONR 5 Sep; total b 11 BBBO 6 Sep – 6 Oct; last HANA 16 Oct.

White-throated Sparrow: max 80 Webster Arboretum 28 Sep (JiM); max b 65 BBBO 10 Oct; total b 429 BBBO 6 Sep – 28 Oct; 76 M (Owl Woods) 1 Oct (AGu).

White-crowned Sparrow: arr 1b BBBO 25 Sep; max 35 HANA 14 Oct (R&SS).

Dark-eyed Junco: max b 32 BBBO 26 Oct; total b 78 BBBO 22 Sep – 27 Oct.

SUMMER TANAGER: f Irondequoit 29 Nov (JBL, ph), brief stop at feeder.

Scarlet Tanager: last Oatka Crk P 25 Sep.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last Webster P 24 Sep.

Indigo Bunting: last Highland P, Rochester 5 Oct.

Bobolink: last 3 G (Beatty Pt) 24 Sep.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 4000 NMWMA (MRdM) 8 Oct.

E. Meadowlark: last G (BurgerP) 22 Nov (DR, VW).

Rusty Blackbird: arr BB-ES 16 Sep; 35 rep, 97 ind 21 loc Oct (25 obs); 6 rep, 15 ind 6 loc 1-8 Nov (7 obs); last Oatka Crk P 20 Nov; no sizable flocks reported this season.

Com. Grackle: max 2500 BB-Dalheim Unit 5 Oct (KG).

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 700 CR 10 LIVI 3 Nov.

Baltimore Oriole: last Palmyra WAYN 21 Sep.

Red Crossbill: arr HB 6 Oct (AGu), only report.

Com. Redpoll: arr 2 HB 22 Oct; HB 9, 15 Nov; only reports.

Pine Siskin: arr HB 16 Sep; 400 DEP 21 Oct (JiM); max 510 HB 22 Oct (AGu); sev other counts > 100.

Am. Goldfinch: max b 30 BBBO 18 Oct; total b 98 8 Sep – 28 Oct; max 172 HB 27 Oct; 146 BBBO 15 Nov (GL); 150 HB 15 Nov (AGu).

Evening Grosbeak: arr HB 4-5 Nov (BCar, AGa, DSh, NK); irregular visitor now.

REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

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September 2017 was warmer and drier than normal. In Ithaca, the average low was 51°F, 3° above normal. The average high was 73°, 2° above normal. Rainfall was 1.70", 2.14" less than normal. October was much warmer than normal and wetter. The average low temperature was 45°, 8° above normal, and the average high was 66°, 7° above normal. Rainfall was 5.73", 2.50" less than historic average. November was cooler and drier than normal. The average low was 29°, 2° below normal, and the average high was 46°, 1° below normal. Rainfall was 1.88", 1.22" below normal. There was no accumulation of snow, 5.4" less than normal. Arrivals and departures of migrating birds were little affected by the temperature departures with nearly all dates well within the normal range.

Waterfowl numbers were generally good, particularly at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. Counts of Gadwall and Northern Pintail were high. A count of more than 1000 Double-crested Cormorants at Stewart Park was also high. Among less common species, observers counted seasonal highs for Cackling Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, and Surf Scoter. Rare species of waterfowl all appeared in November. They included Greater White-fronted Geese at Montezuma NWR, a single report of Ross's Goose in the Savannah Mucklands, a Pacific Loon, first on Seneca Lake and then on Cayuga Lake, and a Great Cormorant on Seneca Lake. The rarest bird in the Region was a Barnacle Goose X Cackling Goose hybrid that appeared at Seneca Lake State Park.

Counts of three American Bitterns and three Least Bitterns were high counts for the fall season. Rare herons were Snowy Egret at Montezuma NWR in September, Cattle Egrets in and near Montezuma NWR in October, and an injured Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in Tompkins County, also in October. The Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was the first record for Tompkins County. Unfortunately, it had to be euthanized because of the severity of its injuries.

Dominic Sherony and Mike Tetlow counted 39 Bald Eagles at Montezuma NWR in early September for a fall season high. The 24 September arrival of a Golden Eagle in Steuben County was early. Doug Daniels counted 98 Sandhill Cranes at Montezuma NWR in late November for a new fall season high.

Shorebird habitat was not as plentiful at Montezuma NWR as in past years. Nevertheless, a good variety of shorebirds visited the Region. A Whimbrel at Myers Point in September, a Hudsonian Godwit at Montezuma NWR in October, a Red-necked Phalarope at Montezuma NWR in September, and a Red Phalarope at Stewart Park in November were the highlights. The count of six Lesser Black-backed Gulls at the Stevenson Road Compost Piles in Tompkins County was a fall season high for the Region. The only Iceland Gull reported was a Thayer's type at Seneca Lake State Park in October.

An irruption of Snowy Owls began with one at Montezuma NWR in mid-November. At the Confer banding station in Dryden, 13 Northern Saw-whet Owls were banded 7 November for a new Region high. Observers found Red-headed Woodpeckers at four locations in September. Another appeared in Cornell University's Palmer Woods in mid-November and continued there through the end of the season.

Two Olive-sided Flycatchers at Summerhill State Forest and four Eastern Kingbirds at Taughannock Falls State Park in September qualified as seasonal high counts for the Region. Ulf Kintzel photographed a **Say's Phoebe** at the White Clover Sheep Farm in October for the Region's second record of the species. Three Yellow-throated Vireos at Montezuma NWR in September was a Regional high count for the fall season. Late October brought Cave Swallow sightings near the south end of Cayuga Lake on two different dates. Palmer Woods hosted a high count of Tufted Titmice in November, the West Elmira Riverine Forest yielded a high count of Carolina Wrens in September, and Cornell University was the site of a high count of night migrating Veerys in September.

Monitoring of nocturnal migrants at Cornell University produced high counts for Ovenbird, American Redstart, Northern Parula, Bay-breasted Warbler, and Black-throated Blue Warbler. Day-time high counts of warblers were seven Hooded Warblers at Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve and 12 Cape May Warblers at Summerhill State Forest. Rare warblers were a Golden-winged Warbler at Palmer Woods and a Connecticut Warbler at Monkey Run in Tompkins County.

There were no high counts of sparrows. There was a single report of Grasshopper Sparrow from Finger Lakes National Forest in September. Rare sparrows were a Henslow's Sparrow at Montezuma NWR in September and Nelson's Sparrows at the Bluegrass Lane Natural Area, Cornell Research Ponds and Montezuma NWR, all in early October.

Other high counts were 12 Scarlet Tanagers in Northeast Ithaca in September and 100 House Sparrows in the Town of Junius in November. Rounding out the rarities were a female Blue Grosbeak in Watkins Glen in November, a night migrating Dickcissel over Cornell University in September, Red Crossbills in Summerhill State Forest in September and in the Town of Dryden and at Roy H Park Preserve in October, and an Evening Grosbeak in Bear Swamp State Forest in November.

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ABBREVIATIONS

BLNA – Bluegrass Lane Natural Area, TOMP; **CCG** – Cornell Community Gardens, TOMP; **CU** – Cornell University; **FLNF** – Finger Lakes National Forest, SENE; **Ith** – Ithaca; **LPBP** – Lindsay Parsons Biodiversity Preserve, TOMP; **LPSP** – Long Pt SP; **MR** – Monkey Run, TOMP; **MNWR** – Montezuma NWR; **MyPt** – Myers Pt, TOMP; **PW** – Palmer Woods, TOMP; **RHPP** – Roy H P Preserve, TOMP; **SenL** – Seneca L; **SLSP** – Seneca L SP; **SRCP** – Stevenson Road Compost Piles, TOMP; **SSF** – Summerhill State Forest, CAYU; **StP** – Stewart P, TOMP; **SW** – Sapsucker Woods, TOMP; **TCar** – T Caroline, TOMP; **TCov** – T Covert, SENE; **TDry** – T Dryden, TOMP; **TFSP** – Taughannock Falls SP; **TLan** – T Lansing, TOMP.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE

(R3): arr 13 MNWR 4 Nov (DDo, ph, DWh); max 16 MNWR 16 Nov (SB, JC, ph, JM, ph); last MNWR 19 Nov (JBr, RK).

Snow Goose: arr 40 MNWR 12 Oct.

ROSS'S GOOSE (R3): Savannah Mucklands SENE 29 Nov (DSh, MTe!).

Brant: arr MNWR 8 Oct; max 150 T Manchester ONTA 28 Oct; 150 StP 28 Oct; last 4 StP 16 Nov.

Cackling Goose: arr MNWR 30 Sep; max 39 SLSP 2 Nov (JM, LSa), high.

BARNACLE X CACKLING GOOSE

(hybrid) (R3): SLSP 12 Nov (mob, ph).

SNOW X CANADA GOOSE (hybrid) (R3): MNWR 24 Nov (TA, MI!).

Tundra Swan: arr 2 MNWR 16 Oct; max 215 MyPt 10 Nov.

Gadwall: max 4000 MNWR 1 Nov (DSh, MTe), high.

Eurasian Wigeon: max 4 MNWR 8-10 Oct (JM), high; last MNWR 11 Nov.
Am. Wigeon: max 8000 MNWR 28 Oct (JM, LSa).
Blue-winged Teal: max 70 MNWR 9 Sep; last MNWR 5 Nov.
N. Shoveler: max 300 MNWR 1 Nov (DSH, MTe), high.
N. Pintail: max 5600 MNWR 30 Sep.
Canvasback: arr 6 MNWR 2 Oct; max 200 MNWR 27 Oct–11 Nov.
Surf Scoter: arr 6 Cayuga L T Ledyard CAYU 8 Oct; max 14 StP 30 Oct (mob), high; last StP 18 Nov.
White-winged Scoter: arr 4 Cayuga L Aurora 14 Oct; max 9 Willard T P SENE 12 Nov.
Black Scoter: arr 2 StP 19 Oct; max 55 StP 29 Oct.
Long-tailed Duck: arr 2 MyPt 29 Oct; max 85 StP 19 Nov.
Bufflehead: arr StP 21 Oct; 5 MNWR 21 Oct; max 145 SLSP 12 Nov.
Com. Goldeneye: arr 22 SLSP 1 Nov; max 32 Sampson SP 17 Nov.
Red-breasted Merganser: arr SenL T Torrey YATE 2 Oct; max 33 LPSP 24 Nov.
Ruddy Duck: arr Allan H Treman State Marine P 16 Sep; max 300 MNWR 1 Nov.
Ring-necked Pheasant: max 14 Goosehaven SENE 26 Nov (DK).
Wild Turkey: max 19 FLNF 10 Oct.
Red-throated Loon: arr Lodi Pt SP 10 Oct; max 4 TFSP 7 Nov.
PACIFIC LOON: SenL, Watkins Glen 1-6 Nov (JM!, LSa); TFSP 7 Nov (TLe!).
Horned Grebe: arr MNWR 2 Oct; max 6 SLSP 13 Nov.
Red-necked Grebe: arr MNWR 16 Oct; max 3 SenL, T Hector SCHU; last Severne Pt YATE 22 Nov.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 1035 StP 3 Sep (JM, LSa), high.
GREAT CORMORANT (R3): SenL, Watkins Glen 12-25 Nov (JM, ph!, LSa, mob, ph).
Am. Bittern: max 3 MNWR 16 Sep (RBu, NKa), high; last T Danby TOMP 27 Oct.
Least Bittern: max 3 MNWR 3 Sep (LK, KR, ST), high; last MNWR 26 Sep.
Great Egret: max 59 MNWR 5 Sep; last MNWR 5 Nov.
SNOWY EGRET (R3): MNWR 2 Sep (KC!); MNWR Sep 8.
CATTLE EGRET (R3): 1-3 MNWR & Goosehaven SENE 27 Oct thru (DC, mob, ph).

Green Heron: max 10 Conell U 20 Sep, nocturnal migrants; last MNWR 15 Oct.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 13 MNWR 9 Sep; last Ith 16 Oct.
YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (R3): TDry 20 Oct (spec), 1st TOMP record.
Plegadis (sp): MNWR 5 Nov (KMcGa).
BLACK VULTURE (R3): Greenwood High School STEU 24 Sep (KC!); 4 SRCP 9-25 Nov (JM!, LSa, mob, ph).
Turkey Vulture: max 250 SRCP 14 Oct (KMcGo), high.

HAWKS - LARIDS

Osprey: max 7 MNWR 2 Sep; last StP 15 Oct, early.
Bald Eagle: max 39 MNWR 5 Sep (DSH, MTe), high.
Red-shouldered Hawk: last Jackson Creek Dam CHEM 30 Oct, early.
Broad-winged Hawk: max 62 TCov 10 Sep; last 13 CU 23 Sep; 7 TDry 23 Sep; 5 Tlth 23 Sep; 2 MNWR 23 Sep.
Rough-legged Hawk: arr MNWR 22 Oct.
Golden Eagle: arr Greenwood High School STEU 24 Sep (KC!), early; last Bear Swamp State Forest CAYU 24 Nov.
Virginia Rail: last MNWR 4 Oct.
Sora: last Owasco L Inlet CAYU 4 Sep.
Com. Gallinule: max 85 MNWR 15 Sep; last 4 MNWR 11 Nov.
Sandhill Crane: max 98 MNWR 29 Nov (DDa), high.
Black-bellied Plover: last 2 MNWR 4 Nov.
Am. Golden-Plover: max & last 6 T Danby TOMP 28 Oct.
Semipalmated Plover: max 30 MNWR 9 Sep; last 3 MNWR 26 Oct.
Spotted Sandpiper: last 2 SLSP 14 Oct.
Solitary Sandpiper: max 9 Dryden L 4 Sep; last MNWR 9 Oct.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 32 MNWR 1 Oct; last MyPt 21 Nov.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 110 MNWR 3 Sep; last 3 MNWR 4 Nov.
WHIMBREL (R3): last MyPt 5 Sep (JM!, LSa), early.
HUDSONIAN GODWIT (R3): MNWR I Oct (AnBu!).
Stilt Sandpiper: max 20 MNWR 9 Oct; last 11 MNWR 4 Nov.
Sanderling: max 4 MNWR 30 Sep; last Kershaw P ONTA 8 Oct.
Dunlin: max 250 MNWR 1 Nov; last 4 MNWR 26 Nov.

Baird's Sandpiper: last MNWR 4 Oct.
Least Sandpiper: max 35 MNWR 14 Oct; last MNWR 22 Oct.
White-rumped Sandpiper: max 5 MNWR 27 & 30 Sep; last MNWR 28 Oct.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 40 MNWR 5 Sep; last 10 MNWR 5 Nov.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 33 MNWR 2 Sep; last MNWR 28 Oct.
Short-billed Dowitcher: max 20 MNWR 30 Sep; last MNWR 2 Oct.
Long-billed Dowitcher: max 17 MNWR 30 Sep; last MNWR 7 Nov.
Wilson's Snipe: max 20 MNWR 28 Oct; last MNWR 10 Nov.
Am. Woodcock: max 3 SW 3 Oct; last TCar 7 Nov; T South Bristol ONTA 7 Nov.
Wilson's Phalarope: last MNWR 27 Sep.
RED-NECKED PHALAROPE (R3): last MNWR 5 Sep (DSh, MTe).
RED PHALAROPE (R3): StP 16 Nov (mob, ph!).
Bonaparte's Gull: max 36 MyPt 31 Oct.
ICELAND GULL (Thayer's type) (R3): SLSP 22 Oct (TLe, ph).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 6 SRCP 8 Oct (AdBu), high.
Caspian Tern: max 20 MNWR 4 Sep (TLe), high; last 2 MNWR 6 Oct.
Black Tern: 3 MNWR 17 Sep (MorK, JWe), only report.
Com. Tern: max & last 3 MNWR 6 Oct.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Rock Pigeon: max 300 TDry 13 Oct (KMcGo).
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: last Newtown Battlefield SP 23 Sep.
Snowy Owl: arr MNWR 17 Nov.
Short-eared Owl: arr Hile School Road Wetland TOMP 22 Oct; max 2 T Phelps ONTA.
N. Saw-whet Owl: max 13 TCar (PMc), high.
Com. Nighthawk: max 23 MNWR 3 Sep; last 3 MNWR 15 Sep.
Chimney Swift: max 30 Elmira Holiday Inn CHEM 6 Sep; last 4 MNWR 8 Oct.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 5 PW; last TCar 30 Sep.
Red-headed Woodpecker: MNWR 2 Sep (GD, AW); LPBP 3 Sep (DTol!); CU 14 Sep (AW!); Durland Preserve TOMP 15 Sep (JM); PW 12 Nov thru (mob!).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: max 2 SSF (GD, LSe, AW), high; last Tlan 16 Sep (GA); TDry 16 Sep (JBa, CW), late.
E. Wood-Pewee: max 7 TDry; 7 SW 10 Sep; last SW 3 Oct.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 3 TCar 12 Sep; last MNWR 22 Sep; TDry 22 Sep.
Willow Flycatcher: last MNWR 16 Sep.
Least Flycatcher: last LPBP 17 Sep; LPSP 17 Sep.
E. Phoebe: max 7 T Middlesex YATE 29 Sep; last PW 14 Nov.
SAY'S PHOEBE: White Clover Sheep Farm YATE 5 Oct (UK!, ph).
Great Crested Flycatcher: last T Canandaigua ONTA 18 Sep.
E. Kingbird: max 4 TFSP 1-5 Sep (SH, LK, TLe), high; last MNWR 9 Sep.
N. Shrike: arr T Fayette SENE 9 Nov.
Yellow-throated Vireo: max 3 MNWR 9 Sep (LK, ST), high; last TCar 20 Sep.
Blue-headed Vireo: max 6 PW 23 Sep; last Tlth TOMP 28 Oct.
Warbling Vireo: max 6 StP; last Tlth TOMP 5 Oct.
Philadelphia Vireo: max 4 LPSP 17 Sep; last Tlth TOMP 10 Oct.
Red-eyed Vireo: max 16 LPBP 4 Sep; last SW 12 Oct.
Fish Crow: max 55 Lakefront P ONTA.
Purple Martin: max 420 MyPt 5 Sep; last The Shops at Ith Mall TOMP 14 Sep.
Tree Swallow: max 3000 MNWR 3 Sep; last StP 31 Oct.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 60 MNWR 9 Sep; last 5 MNWR 14 Oct.
Bank Swallow: max 50 MNWR 2 Sep; last MNWR 14 Sep.
Cliff Swallow: max 4 StP 5 Sep; last MNWR 9 Sep, early.
CAVE SWALLOW: Candlewyck Apartments TOMP 25 Oct (LSe!); 2 StP 31 Oct (mob!).
Barn Swallow: max 300 Allan H Treman Marina SP 3 Sep; last MR 5 Oct.
Tufted Titmouse: max 15 PW 26 Nov (MP), high.
Carolina Wren: max 9 West Elmira Riverine Forest 24 Sep (BO), high.
Veery: max 120 CU 14 Sep (GD, AW), nocturnal migrants, high; last 4 Prospect Hill CHEM 5 Oct.
Gray-checked Thrush: arr CU 8 Sep, nocturnal migrant; max 50 CU 20 Sep,

nocturnal migrants; last NE lth 5 Oct, nocturnal migrant.

Swainson's Thrush: max 220 CU 20 Sep, nocturnal migrants; last Liddel Lab TOMP 18 Oct.

Hermit Thrush: last MR 29 Nov (CW), late.

Wood Thrush: max 35 NE lth 28 Sep, nocturnal migrants; last Hammond Hill State Forest TOMP 16 Oct.

Gray Catbird: max 30 MNWR 11 Sep; last SW 25 Nov.

Brown Thrasher: max 4 FLNF; last Kehoe Nature Preserve CHEM 13 Oct.

Am. Pipit: arr MNWR 9 Sep; max 40 T Hector SCHU 21 Oct; last 3 TDry 20 Nov.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: Perry Pt YATE 4 Nov; Hog Hole TOMP 18 Nov.

Snow Bunting: arr 2 City Pier ONTA 4 Nov; Perry Pt YATE 4 Nov; max 15 MNWR 4 Nov.

Ovenbird: max 68 CU 20 Sep (GD, AW), nocturnal migrants, high; last 2 T Prattsburg 16 Oct.

Worm-eating Warbler: last LPBP 4 Sep (JM!, LSa), late.

N. Waterthrush: last Cascadilla Gorge Trail TOMP 30 Sep.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER (R3): PW 1 Sep (JC!).

Blue-winged Warbler: max 3 Dryden L Linear Path TOMP 3 Sep; last MR 15 Sep.

Golden-winged x Blue-winged Warbler (hybrid): Sullivanville Dam CHEM 8 Sep (LK, TLel!); Ford Hill TOMP 10 Sep (JM!).

“Brewster’s” Warbler (hybrid): SSF 2 Sep.

Black-and-white Warbler: max 3 SW 13 Sep; Tith TOMP 14 Oct.

Tennessee Warbler: max 11 FLNF 10 Sep; last SW 19 Oct (KB, AD, TSchu), late.

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr Newtown Battlefield SP 23 Sep; last Sampson SP 21 Oct.

Nashville Warbler: max 8 RHPP 11 Sep; last Cornell Botanic Gardens TOMP 23 Oct.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER (R3): MR 16 Sep (mob, ph!).

Mourning Warbler: last RHPP 4 Oct.

Com. Yellowthroat: max 35 CU 20 Sep, nocturnal migrants; last BLNA 24 Oct.

Hooded Warbler: max 7 LPBP 2 Oct (JM, LSa), high; last LPBP 1 Oct.

Am. Redstart: max 25 CU 14 Sep (GD, AW), nocturnal migrants, high; last TCov 6 Oct.

Cape May Warbler: max 12 SSF 4 Sep (GD, LSe, AW), high; last 2 NE lth 10 Oct.

N. Parula: max 12 MNWR 15 Sep (SH, ST, AW), nocturnal migrants; 12 CU 20 Sep (GD, AW), nocturnal migrants, high; last NE lth 10 Oct; Hile School Road Wetland TOMP 10 Oct.

Magnolia Warbler: max 9 Bonavista SP Golf Course 10 Sep; 9 SW 15 Sep; 9 SW 22 Sep; last MNWR 5 Oct; SLSP 5 Oct.

Bay-breasted Warbler: max 12 CU 21 Sep (GD, ST), nocturnal migrants, high; last Finger Lakes Community College ONTA (DDa!), late.

Blackburnian Warbler: max 5 CU 21 Sep; last SW 2 Oct.

Yellow Warbler: max 5 MNWR 2 Sep; last lth 3 Nov (DM, ph).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 6 MNWR 15 Sep, nocturnal migrants; last SW 22 Sep.

Blackpoll Warbler: max 6 SW 22 Sep; 6 Jacksonville 5 Oct; last CU 18 Oct.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 30 MNWR 15 Sep, nocturnal migrants (SH, ST, AW), high; last Liddell Lab TOMP 18 Oct.

Palm Warbler: arr CU 4 Sep (GD, LSe, AW), nocturnal migrant, early; max 11 CU 20 Sep, nocturnal migrants; last SW 25 Oct.

Pine Warbler: max 7 T Newfield TOMP; last Robert Trent Jones Golf Course TOMP 13 Oct.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 80 SW 16 Oct.

Prairie Warbler: max 2 Arnot Forest TOMP 4 Sep; 2 CU 8 Sep, nocturnal migrants; last BLNA 1 Nov (AD!), late.

Black-throated Green Warbler: max 9 TDry 22 Sep; last Hammond Hill State Forest TOMP 15 Oct.

Canada Warbler: max 2 CU 8 Sep; 2 Edwards Lake Cliff Preserve TOMP 9 Sep; last PW 30 Sep.

Wilson's Warbler: max 4 MNWR 9 Sep; last Owasco L Inlet CAYU 2 Oct; SW 2 Oct.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: max 10 LPBP 1 Oct; last T Catlin CHEM 4 Nov.

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr StP 2 Nov; max 20 T Locke CAYU 19 Nov.

Chipping Sparrow: max 60 Robert Trent Joes Golf Course TOMP; last NE lth 5 Nov.

Field Sparrow: max 22 LPSP 17 Sep; last Hog Hole TOMP 25 Oct.

Vesper Sparrow: max 4 T Varick SENE 5 Oct; last Mt Pleasant TOMP 15 Oct.

Savannah Sparrow: max 60 FLNF 10 Sep; last MyPt 10 Nov.

Grasshopper Sparrow: FLNF 10 Sep (LK, KR, ST!), only report.

HENSLOW'S SPARROW (R3): MNWR 14 Sep (CHO!).

NELSON'S SPARROW (R3): 1-4 BLNA 2-10 Oct (mob, ph!); 1-4 Cornell Research Pds TOMP 2-11 Oct (mob, ph!); 2 MNWR 8 Oct (JM!, JC, ph).

Fox Sparrow: arr CCG 2 Oct; max 16 RHPP 11 Nov; last 2 SW 24 Nov.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr BLNA 12 Sep; max 3 T Lan 23 Sep; 3 CCG 26 Sep; last T Lodi SENE 20 Oct.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr CCG 20 Sep; max 9 T Lan 14 Oct; last TCov 25 Nov.

Scarlet Tanager: max 12 NE Ith 28 Sep (KR), high; last PW 1 Oct; LPBP 1 Oct; T Enfield TOMP 1 Oct.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 30 CU 6 Sep, nocturnal migrant; last RHPP 4 Oct.

BLUE GROSBEAK: Seneca Harbor P SCHU 12 Nov (JM, ph, LSa, MTo).

Indigo Bunting: max 5 FLNF 10 Sep; last SW 13 Nov.

DICKCISSEL (R3): CU 22 Sep (GD, AW), nocturnal migrant.

Bobolink: max 80 MNWR 2 Sep; last 3 BLNA 5 Oct.

E. Meadowlark: max and last 11 Reynolds State Game Farm TOMP 22 Oct; Slaterville Springs 22 Oct.

Rusty Blackbird: arr MyPt 18 Sep; max 110 Ithaca Tompkins Airport 29 Oct.

Baltimore Oriole: last MNWR 13 Sep.

RED CROSSBILL (R3): arr 2 SSF 17 Sep (BMI, MY!), early; 3 TDry 8 Oct (JF!); RHPP 21 Oct (JM).

Pine Siskin: arr T Seneca ONTA 28 Sep; max 40 T Fayette SENE 10 Nov.

EVENING GROSBEAK (R3): Bear Swamp State Forest CAYU 24 Nov (CW).

House Sparrow: max 100 T Junius SENE 3 Nov (CG, ZP), high.

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REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

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September 2017 was warmer and drier than normal. In fact, September was the fifteenth warmest since 1950 and the sixth driest. October temperatures were about six degrees above average, and the month was a little drier than average. It was the fourth warmest October since recording began in 1950. November was about 1.5 degrees warmer than average and was the tenth driest.

On 9 October, the remnants of Hurricane Nate went through the Region, and on 10 October, 40 Ruddy Ducks, six Red-breasted Mergansers, one Red-Necked Grebe, and three Lesser Black-backed Gulls were observed at various parks around the Whitney Point Reservoir in Broome County. There is no definitive proof that the storm front was a causal factor in these observations, but it is suggestive.

Later in the season a Greater White-fronted Goose was discovered by Catherine Murphy on Plymouth Reservoir in Chenango County amidst Canada Geese on 9 November. Then on 24 November, another (or perhaps the same bird?) was found at Dorchester Park in Broome County by Jon Weeks. Many birders were able to see and photograph this bird as it remained at the park or at

a nearby quarry for a week or so. It was in the company of a great many Canada Geese. Both birds are eBird first records for their respective counties. *Bull's Birds of New York State* (1998) says that "About 130 sightings were reported in *The Kingbird* from 1975 to 1995." It also states that it is a rare fall visitor more common in spring and winter, and the increase in sightings could be attributed to both an increase in numbers and more observers perusing the flocks of Canada Geese for geese with bands (or more recently for Cackling Geese). On 4 November, seven Common Loons were seen on Pepacton Reservoir, which was a maximum for the Region. Single sightings of Red-throated Loons were seen in a few locations in October and November.

A **WOOD STORK** was found on 2 October by Doug Amadon near East Meredith in Delaware County. To quote his eBird report, "While driving, saw and said, 'what the heck was that?' and went back and photographed." The bird was near a section of County Route 22 where Kortright Creek widens out considerably so that it looks rather like an area that a heron or other wader might consider inviting. The photographs reveal a young Wood Stork colored in black and white with a huge bill, standing on a log in the creek. The cream or brown color on its neck seems to indicate a first or second year bird. *Bull's Birds of New York State* notes there have been at least 20 records, with 5 of those coming in the nineteenth century. Eight of those records were coastal. Most were in the summer, most likely post-breeding wandering. Great Egrets were also seen in good numbers along the Susquehanna River mostly in September. However one Great Egret was seen and photographed at Cincinnatus Lake in Chenango County on 29 November.

Soaring on to raptors, Andy Mason reports that numbers from the Franklin Mountain hawk watch were somewhat down yet again this year. The total count was 3,860 raptors, which was 25% below the 16-year average of 5,178. Broad-winged Hawks were 22% below their 16-year averages with 1,159. The total number of Bald Eagles at 214 was 30% above average. Osprey recorded at 64 was greater than the last year's total of 52 but was still 45% below average. Northern Harriers, Red-tailed Hawks, Sharp-shinned Hawks, and Cooper's Hawks were all down significantly from their 16-year averages. Golden Eagles were 24% above their average, with 214 tallied. November was a particularly good month for Golden Eagles with 186 being counted, the highest number for November ever at the hawk watch. Franklin Mountain is one of the best places to spot Golden Eagles, and, in fact, Andy Mason states it led all eastern hawk watches in the total number of goldens seen this season. In addition, six Black Vultures were seen this season, while the total for all previous 28 years was just two.

Much of the decline this year at the Franklin Mountain Hawk Watch was the drop in Red-tailed Hawks. Last year 1,132 were seen, while this season only 739 were recorded. Per Andy Mason this was the second lowest amount ever recorded at Franklin Mountain. Only the initial year of the FMHW in 1989 was lower but with only 54 hours of coverage. Hawk Mountain in Pennsylvania also

PHOTO GALLERY FALL 2017



Figure 1. Corn Crane (*Crex crex*), photographed on the afternoon of 8 November 2017 along Ocean Parkway at Cedar Beach, Suffolk County, Long Island, New York. Photo © Robert DeCandido, PhD. See articles pp. 2-10.



Figure 2. Note the absence of gray feathering above and below the eye, typical of a young bird. The bird was found dead the next morning and confirmed as a Hatching-Year male. Photo © Robert DeCandido, PhD.



Greater White-fronted Goose, Dorchester Park, *Broome*, 28 Nov 2017, © George Chiu.



Barnacle Goose x Cackling Goose hybrid, Seneca Lake SP, *Seneca*, 12 Nov 2017, © Kevin McGowan.



Yellow Rail, Brockport, *Monroe*, 15 Sep 2017, © Jodie Stahl.



Figure 1. Little Egret, Goethal's Bridge Pond, Staten Island, NY. Photo © James Muchmore. See article, pp. 11-14.



Figure 2. Little Egret in flight, Goethal’s Bridge Pond, Staten Island, NY. Photo © Isaac Grant.



Figure 3. Little Egret, Goethal’s Bridge Pond, Staten Island, NY. Photo © Isaac Grant.

had the lowest amount of Red-tails in 82 years of coverage. What is the cause for this year's decrease? Changing migration patterns with the hawks staying north has been suggested. There does not seem to be a good answer, since as Andy Mason says, Red-tails are long-lived birds not given to sudden population swings.

In Chenango County in the Town of Plymouth three adult Sandhill Cranes were photographed in the beautiful October fields. No colts were seen. Scoping on shorebirds, many observed a Baird's Sandpiper in early September on the Susquehanna River in Johnson City. American Golden-Plovers were found in a few different locations in the Region in September and October.

A White-eyed Vireo was seen in the Binghamton University Nature Preserve on 6 October. It now seems as though we find one each fall. Warbler diversity continued to be good, with 29 species recorded. For the three preceding years, the total number of species was 27. There were two Connecticut Warblers seen in the Region, one in mid-September and the other in early October. Also in late September, 20 Tennessee Warblers were seen in Upper Lisle Park in Broome County.

On 12 November a seasonal maximum of 25 American Tree Sparrows was seen at Upper Lisle Park. A Clay-colored Sparrow was discovered on 3 September at Underwood Hill in Cortland County. A flock of 11 Rusty Blackbirds was reported from the Carantouan Greenway in Tioga County on 19 November, and there were seven other scattered reports of this declining species. There were 16 reports of Pine Siskins, some with as many as 85 birds. So far this does appear to be an irruption year. There were also a few sightings of Red Crossbills in various locations throughout the Region.

In summary, 214 species, compared with 213 last year, were reported, with some interesting rarities for the Region. I also want to acknowledge and thank Bill Ostrander who sorted eBird data to identify arrivals, last dates, and high counts.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AqPk – Aquaterra P, BROO; **BoPd** – Boland Pd, BROO; **BUNP** – Binghamton University Nature Preserve, BROO; **CanL** – Canadarago L, OTSE; **CannR** – Cannonsville Res, DELA; **ChenL** – Chenango L, CHEN; **DorP** – Dorchester P, BROO; **FMHW** – Franklin Mt. Hawkwatch, DELA; **GrwP** – Greenwood CP, BROO; **LHNC** – Lime Hollow Nature Center, CORT; **LPSF** – Long Pd SF, CHEN; **MHL** – Michigan Hollow L, TIOG; **OtsL** – Otsego L, OTSE; **PepR** – Pepacton Res, OTSE; **SkaL** – Skaneateles L, CORT; **SusR** – Susquehanna R, BROO; **UL** – Upper Lisle, BROO.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: max 18 Stoller Hill Rd OTSE 28 Sep.

Greater White-fronted Goose (R4):

Plymouth Res CHEN 9 Nov (CM); DorP 24-29 Nov (JW, ph, mob).

Brant: max 60 Ceresna Rd DELA 12 Oct.

Redhead: max 5 Allen L OTSE 21 Nov.

Surf Scoter: max 4 PepR DELA 4-5 Nov.

White-winged Scoter: max 5 DorP 30 Sep.

Black Scoter: 2 ChenL 30 Oct; 2 DorP 4 Nov; 2 LPSF 13 Nov; 2 SusR 27-28 Nov.

Long-tailed Duck: max 4 CannR 4 Nov; max 4 DorP 17 Nov.

Com. Goldeneye: max 47 Glimmerglass SP OTSE 25 Nov.

Ruddy Duck: max 40 UL 10 Oct.

Red-breasted Merganser: 6 DorP 10 Oct.

Red-throated Loon: OtsL 25 Oct; PepR 12 Nov; ChenL 14 Nov.

Com. Loon: max 7 PepR 4 Nov.

Red-necked Grebe: DorP 10 Oct; Nathaniel Cole P BROO 15 Nov; DorP 15 Nov.

WOOD STORK: East Meredith DELA 2 Oct (DA, ph).

Great Egret: max 11 William Hill P Broo 6 Sep; last Cincinnatus L CHEN 29 Nov (MD, ph)

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Marshall Andrews P CHEN 14 Nov (RB, ph).

Black Vulture: total 6 FMHW, in the previous 28 years only 2 were counted.

Turkey Vulture: total 884 FMHW, 112% above avg.

HAWKS – LARIDS

(FMHW totals cover 26 Aug to 7 Jan; averages reflect 2001-2016 data, *intro*).

Osprey: total 64 FMHW, 45% below avg.

Bald Eagle: total 214 FMHW, 30% above avg; many other rep; very widespread.

N. Harrier: total 23 FMHW, 65% below avg.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: total 332 FMHW, 36% below avg.

Cooper's Hawk: total 40 FMHW, 59% below avg.

N. Goshawk: total 9 FMHW, 55% below avg.

Red-shouldered Hawk: total 22 FMHW, 58% below avg.

Broad-winged Hawk: total 1159 FMHW, 22% below avg.

Red-tailed Hawk: total 739 FMHW, 61% below avg; many other rep.

Rough-legged Hawk: total 2 FMHW, 74% below avg.

Golden Eagle: total 214 FMHW, 24% above avg.

Virginia Rail: BUNP 7 Oct, only report.

Sora: Lockheed Martin Pd TIOG 22 Sep, only report.

Com. Gallinule: max 5 Sherburne Railroad Marsh CHEN 17 Sep; last BoPd 28 Oct.

Am. Coot: max 87 OtsL 25 Nov.

Sandhill Crane: 3 Doing Rd CHEN 2-30 Oct.

Am. Golden-Plover: 1 to 2 Town of Coventry CHEN 8-19 Sep; 2 DorP 31 Oct; SusR 2-6 Sep; Chenango R Binghamton BROO 1-3 Oct.

Sanderling: 2 DorP 9 Sep.

Baird's Sandpiper: SusR BROO 2-6 Sep, ph, mob.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 45 DorP 1 Nov.

Laughing Gull: CannR 16 Sep (LV).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 3 UL 10 Oct.

Greater Black-backed Gull: Cortland CORT 29-30 Oct; Goodale L Cort 30 Nov.

Black Tern: UL 7 Sep.

PIGEONS – PARROTS

N. Saw-whet Owl: DELA 25 Nov.

Com. Nighthawk: max 36 SusR 9 Sep, 16 other scattered rep.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last DELA 26 Sep.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Taylor Valley SF CORT 16 Sep; Scott CORT 10 Oct.

Am. Kestrel: total 84 FMHW, 12% below avg.
Merlin: total 40 FMHW, 58% above avg.
Peregrine Falcon: total 15 FMHW, 7% below avg; many rep from Binghamton BROO of resident downtown pair.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Downsville DELA 3-4 Sep.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 14 scattered rep most from early Sep.

N. Shrike: 2 MHL 24 Nov; Nanticoke L BROO 31 Oct; only reports.

White-eyed Vireo: BUNP 6 Oct, only report.

Horned Lark: max 25 Moran Rd CHEN 27 Nov.

Marsh Wren: max 4 Sherburne Railroad Marsh CHEN 22 Sep.

Veery: last UL15 Sep.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: last LHNC 12 Oct.

Swainson's Thrush: last UL 1 Oct.

LONGSPURS – WEAVERS

Snow Bunting: max 7 DorP 8 Nov.

Tennessee Warbler: max 20 UL 29 Sep (DN).

Connecticut Warbler: Downsville DELA 11 Sep (LV); Brick Pd TIOG 1 Oct (ST LK).

Mourning Warbler: 4 scattered rep. in Sep.

Hooded Warbler: McGraw CORT 3 Sep, only report.

Am. Tree Sparrow: max 25 UL 12 Nov.

Clay-colored Sparrow: Underwood Hill CORT 3 Sep.

Vesper Sparrow: Oquaga Creek SP 19 Oct.

Rusty Blackbird: max 11 Carantouan Greenway TIOG 19 Nov.

Red Crossbill: max 4 Perkins Pond SF CHEN 14 Oct; max 4 Morgan Hill SF CORT 21 Oct; 3 AqPk 28 Nov.

Pine Siskin: max 85 Tubbs Hill Rd TIOG 20 Nov; 80 N Griffin Rd CHEN 19 Nov; 14 other scattered reports.

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REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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The fall season had a warm and dry beginning. In Syracuse the mean temperature for September was 64.5°F, 2.5° higher than normal. A high temperature of 91° was recorded on 27 September. Precipitation for the month barely exceeded 1.5", which is 2.3" lower than average. The mercury continued to surge (a relative term) in October. The average temperature for the month was 57°, 6.4° above normal. Rainfall in October amounted to 6.09", fully 2.65" above average. The highest winds for the entire period occurred on 15 October. On that day sustained winds out of the west reached 45 MPH and peak gust speeds were recorded at 54 MPH. The season's warming trend ended in November, with a mean temperature in Syracuse of 38°, 2.6° below average. Rainfall amounted to 3.65", which is slightly above normal. 5.2" of snow fell in November, which is 4.3" less than average for Syracuse.

A lack of strong fronts pushing into the Region for the better part of the

season contributed to low overall counts of most migrants. This seemed especially true in the September through mid-October time frame. The season's winds seemed to offer little assistance to migrating raptors. In late October and early November, low pressure and cold fronts responsible for dumping nearly a season's worth of rain finally ushered waterfowl by Derby Hill, including good numbers of all three scoter species.

Migrating Snow Geese began showing up in the Region in the last week of November, while the Brant flight peaked in mid-October. On Halloween, Gary Meyers observed seven Cackling Geese on Woodman Pond in Madison County. Our best counts of Tundra Swans came from northwestern Oneida Lake. 412 were reported from Constantia on 19 November. Generally, duck numbers were low this period, but a tally of 215 Wood Ducks at Delta Lake on the first day of October is respectable. Dabbling duck numbers were mixed. Continuing a lamentable trend of recent years, tallies of migrant Blue-winged Teal were very low. American Wigeon numbers were fairly high, with a maximum of 150 reported from the eastern part of Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge (Cayuga County) and Fair Haven. Those observations occurred on 1 November and 28 October, respectively. 128 Northern Pintail were counted at Fair Haven on 1 November and 113 were counted at Derby Hill a couple days before. Diving duck numbers were down with few exceptions. Canvasbacks were completely missed, while Ring-necked Duck numbers peaked in mid-October. Best numbers for that species, 345 and 260, occurred in mid-November on a few small lakes in Madison County. Three **King Eider** flew past Derby Hill on 19 November. On 30 October, 40 MPH west winds facilitated a good flight of bay ducks over Derby Hill. The flight included 52 Surf Scoters, 157 White-winged Scoters, 195 Black Scoters, and 290 Long-tailed Ducks. Numbers of Hooded Mergansers were high on some of the Region's small lakes. 100 were tallied at Beaver Lake Nature Center on 21 November and 77 on Otisco Lake on 25 November. A maximum of 400 Red-breasted Mergansers was seen at Oswego Harbor on 25 November.

Wild Turkey numbers continue to be low, but perhaps the season's bountiful mast will lead to greater winter survival rates and set the species up for a more successful breeding season in 2018. Drew Weber counted 68 Common Loons over Derby Hill on 6 November. According to Gary Lee, three Common Loons tempted fate by remaining on Big Moose Lake in the Adirondacks right through the end of the period. A maximum number of 37 Horned Grebes was counted at Derby Hill on 4 November. On 16 September, a team competing in the Muckrace at MNWR found two Least Bitterns at Howland Island. That species is often missed in the fall. Single **Cattle Egrets** were found three places in the Region. Gregg Dashnau's watch at the Three Rivers confluence found a bird flying the corridor on 25 and 27 November. Other sightings included one in Madison County and another at an unlikely spot in Brewerton. At the Onondaga Lake Creekwalk Deborah Dohne kept tabs on what turned out to be a record late Green Heron. Dohne meticulously documented the bird's behavior from 24

October to the last sighting on 23 November. The bird survived 15 nights below freezing and a low of 16°F. She also noted its interactions with a group of Black-crowned Night-Herons and a gray fox. On 27 October, a second Green Heron was seen. The species has little desire to linger beyond mid-October, but exceptionally mild weather in the first three weeks of October was likely a factor. On 31 October, Dohne found a total of seven Black-crowned Night-Herons at the same location. Five Black-crowned Night-Herons were reported at Howland Island on 15 September.

Amid overcast skies, light rain, and winds out of the northeast, 454 Turkey Vultures migrated over the Bishop Road hawkwatch on 11 October. The last Osprey of the season occurred at Woodman Pond in Madison County on 9 November, which is late for the species. Although sightings were widespread, high counts of the two common accipiter species were low. A maximum of 10 Sharp-shinned Hawks was counted at Bishop on 11 October, and there was only a single report of Northern Goshawk for the period. On 9 September, winds out of the north, coupled with an eastward breeze off Lake Ontario compelled Bill Purcell to neglect his Bishop Road site in favor of his own Hastings property (well inland from Lake Ontario). There he was rewarded with a decent fall raptor flight that featured (among other species) six Bald Eagles, six Osprey, and 129 Broad-winged Hawks. Rough-legged Hawks arrived on 11 October and were reported from a total of six locations.

Virginia Rails were found at three sites. The last straggler was seen at the Clay Marsh on 19 October. The season's only Sora was photographed by Deborah Dohne while kayaking at Onondaga Lake on 14 September at an unusual location not accessible on foot. At the same site, a runner-up high count of 34 American Coots was observed on 5 November. Migrant shorebirds were unremarkable in terms of diversity and number. The last Black-bellied Plover of the season was observed at Fair Haven on 7 November. On 5 September, a maximum of nine American Golden Plovers was counted at the traditional stopover site at the Sky High Turf Farm, north of Chittenango. Greg Dashnau found one Purple Sandpiper at Fair Haven on 20 October. The species is expected annually there, although the arrival date is very early. The Purple Sandpiper continued for nine days, perhaps aware it need be in no hurry. The last Wilson's Snipe was reported from Woodman Pond on 28 November. Two Red Phalaropes flew past Derby Hill on 30 October and another on 10 November. Bill Purcell observed three Black-legged Kittiwakes at Derby Hill on 19 November. All of the expected gull species occurred in low or otherwise unremarkable numbers. Fair Haven produced a Little Gull for David Wheeler and Deborah Dohne on 28 October. A distant jaeger was seen by Wheeler at both Fair Haven and Oswego Harbor. A dark-mantled hooded gull was seen poorly after passing Derby Hill. The observers could not be sure if it was Laughing or Franklin's.

Reports of the Region's common owl species were widespread and relatively numerous. The first Snowy Owl arrived at Oswego Harbor on 21

November. Additional reports of the species came from four other locations. Two ended up with local wildlife rehabilitators after being involved in vehicle impacts. The season's first Short-eared Owl was struck by a car in North Syracuse on 17 October. A month later, on 17 November, two were reported from Three Rivers WMA. One Short-eared Owl continued at that location until at least 23 November. The only Northern Saw-whet Owl report came from Redfield on 12 November and involved yet another victim of vehicle impact. On 13 September, Maryanne Adams observed 91 Chimney Swifts entering their roost in a large chimney in Weedsport. This was fully ten days after the last swift was reported by anyone else in the Region. On 4 September, Wayne Fidler counted 45 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds as they migrated along the Sandy Pond south spit shoreline.

There were widespread reports of single Merlins. Two were observed in Brewerton on 10 September and two at Fair Haven on 6 October. Peregrine Falcons were seen at a dozen locations including Utica and Syracuse, where there continue to be territorial pairs. The Utica pair was observed defending their territory from interloping Peregrines on several occasions. Reports of Olive-sided Flycatchers came from seven locations. A high count of three was found at Sandy Pond on 1 September, and they were an easy find at Oakwood Cemetery in Syracuse. The last Eastern Wood-Pewee was found in Hastings on 20 October, a record late date for the Region. Northern Shrike arrived on 22 November, and there was a total of eight reports of singles. Numbers of Warbling Vireo reports were generally down, with only a handful of them from areas east of Oneida Lake. However, reports of Philadelphia Vireos were up. The last Philadelphia Vireo was reported by Joe Brin at Beaver Lake Nature Center on the very late date of 27 October. The bird was heard singing, likely another individual that saw no need to move on during October's "second summer". One Gray Jay was reported on 23 September in the vicinity of Old Forge in the Adirondacks. Mickey Scilingo observed migrating Blue Jays from his property on the north shore of Oneida Lake at Constantia. He counted 184 on 26 September and 427 on 29 September. Overall, the number of migrant Blue Jays at Constantia and other areas fell well short of the previous year's amazing totals. Undoubtedly there is a correlation between the number of migrant jays and the amount of mast available in forests this season.

There were relatively few reports of Horned Larks this period, although a good tally of 140 was counted at the Bishop Road Hawk Watch on 5 November. Several successive days of southeast winds at the end of October created favorable conditions for the occurrence of Cave Swallows along the Lake Ontario shoreline. Ultimately, a few were observed at Fair Haven on 1 November and 7 November. On 23 September, three Boreal Chickadees were reported in the vicinity of Old Forge, where they are expected. Reports of Red-breasted Nuthatches mainly emanated from the species' known year-round territories. No appreciable migration or irruption was detected. A late Marsh Wren was observed at Selkirk Shores State Park on 12 November. Maryanne

Adams obtained great photos of a **Sedge Wren** that visited her Cato property on 15 September, but there were no subsequent reports of the rarity. A pre-dawn visit to Oneida Shores County Park in Brewerton on 9 September yielded a fallout of thrush species. In less than 15 minutes, Tom Auer, Ian Davies and Sarah Dzielski identified the twilight descent calls of 17 Veerys, four Gray-cheeked Thrushes, and 195 Swainson's Thrushes. A maximum number of 25 Gray-cheeked Thrushes was identified by their nocturnal flight calls at Howland Island on 16 September.

The first Lapland Longspur report came from Fair Haven on 4 November. There was only one other report of the species. The general consensus among birders was that warbler migration was disappointing. High counts for most species occurred in mid-September, which is the traditional time for peak movement. Generally though, most species were found in low numbers. Tennessee Warblers again defied the trend and were found in good numbers in several locations. Orange-crowned Warblers were reported in a total of five locations. The last one was seen at Three Rivers WMA on 21 October. In Dolgeville, on 25 September, a **Connecticut Warbler** was observed by Larry Hall as it skulked in the brambles near a feeding station. The rarity was well described. Cape May Warblers were found with more frequency this season. The last one was reported on 2 November, which is fairly late. Bay-breasted Warblers were also relatively well represented during the period. However, there were surprisingly few reports of Blackburnian Warblers. In fact, the maximum daily counts of that species didn't surpass two. That was also the case with Black-throated Blue Warblers. By contrast, Palm Warblers were fairly numerous. On 8 October, 15 Palm Warblers were found at Three Rivers WMA. There was only a single report of Canada Warbler this period.

Sparrow migration was also slow and disorganized. There were very few reports of Fox Sparrows. In stark contrast to relatively imperceptible sparrow migration, blackbird migration was staggering for some observers. Blackbirds concentrated in some areas and grew into flocks of vast proportions. 17,300 Red-winged Blackbirds were tallied at the Bishop Road Hawk Watch on 4 November. On the same date a more astounding estimate of 355,000 Common Grackles were observed and videotaped by Deborah Dohne at the Onondaga Lake Creekwalk. Dohne wrote, "This was a massive river of birds that took eight minutes to pass." She analyzed still pictures and video to arrive at her estimated total. On 2 November at Constantia, Mickey Scilingo estimated the size of a mixed flock of blackbirds to contain 250,000 individuals.

Given the fact that our Region is jam-packed with finch food, primarily in the form of spruce cones and birch seeds, it came as a great disappointment not to have winter finches taking advantage of the bounty. There were only a handful of crossbills reported. Pine Siskins were encountered in some numbers, but there were no sightings of redpolls. The only report of Evening Grosbeaks came from Old Forge in the Adirondacks, where the species has been a yearlong resident. Through much of the fall period the editors of this report fielded

questions from a great number of birders regarding the lack of songbirds visiting bird feeding stations. This is a perennial question and the standard answer is that birds are not coming to feeders because they prefer feeding on abundant wild food supplies. That answer is problematic since those of us who were spending a lot of time in the woods, meadows, and wetlands weren't seeing the birds either. Perhaps there was another reason for the birds' absence, or maybe there were multiple reasons. In November, when temperatures dropped and snow covered the ground, some birds did return to feeders, but it amounted to only a fraction of the normal clientele. At Spring Farm Nature Preserve in Kirkland, Matt Perry tried calling birds in with recorded bird song in the vicinity of three different inner-woods feeding stations. At two of the stations, following 20 minutes of playing the calls, winter foraging flocks including a familiar complement of feeder birds made brief visits to the feeders. About half of the species fed before disappearing back into the forest. Although the results of the test couldn't be considered definitive due to the small scale of the experiment, they support the conventional wisdom that songbirds are being satiated by mast and have little need to visit feeding stations.

A total of 238 species and three hybrids was reported for the season, which is two more than the recent 10-year average of 236. Highlights included: Greater White-fronted Goose, King Eider, **Cattle Egret**, Golden Eagle, Red Phalarope, Parasitic Jaeger, Black-legged Kittiwake, Little Gull, Snowy Owl, Short-eared Owl, Gray Jay, **Cave Swallow**, Boreal Chickadee, **Sedge Wren**, Orange-crowned Warbler, and **Connecticut Warbler**.

Swan Hummingbird v4.02 was used to process 35,268 eBird records from 242 contributors.

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ABBREVIATIONS

Adks – Adirondacks (n. HERK); **BLNC** – Beaver Lake Nature Center, Baldwinsville; **BRH** – Bishop Road Hawk Watch, T Richland; **Bville** – Baldwinsville; **CM** – Clay Marsh, Clay; **Const** – Oneida L at Constantia; **DB** – Ditch Bank Rd & vicinity, T

Sullivan/Lenox; **DH** – Derby Hill, T Mexico; **DL** – Delta L; **Dolge** – Dolgeville, HERK; **FH** – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay, and vicinity; **GB** – Great Bear Rec Area, Fulton; **GLSP** – Green Lakes SP, Fayetteville; **Hast** – Hastings; **HI** – Howland I WMA; **MNWR** east – Montezuma NWR, CAYU; **OF** – Old Forge, HERK; **OLC** – Onondaga L Creekwalk; **OneiL** – Oneida L; **OnonL** – Onondaga L; **OSP** – Oneida Shores P, Brewerton; **OswH** – Oswego Harbor; **SFNS** – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; **SH** – Southern Highlands of ONON & MADI; **SHTF** – Sky High Turf Farm, Chittenango, MADI; **Skan** – Skaneateles; **SSSP** – Selkirk Shores SP; **SVB** – Sylvan & Verona Beach; **Syr** – Syracuse; **TR** – Three Rivers WMA, Lysander; **UM** – Utica Marsh; **VBSP** – Verona Beach SP; **WP** – Woodman Pd, Hamilton.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: WP 15 Oct (GM), only report.

Snow Goose: arr 4 Phoenix 8 Oct; arr 8 OswH 21 Nov; max 80 Tully 27 Nov; small numbers early in season likely summered nearby.

Brant: arr 16 WP 8 Oct; max 1400 DH 16 Oct; 326 FH 16 Oct; last 3 OswH 22 Nov.

Cackling Goose: arr WP 8 Oct; max 7 WP 31 Oct; 2 BLNC 31 Oct – 11 Nov.

Canada Goose: max 5000 Conquest, CAYU 11 Nov.

Snow Goose X Canada Goose: BLNC 1 – 6 Nov (GD).

Mute Swan: max 63 FH 14 Nov.

Trumpeter Swan: 6 Mallory 25 Oct; max 8 FH 11 Nov.

Tundra Swan: arr WP 3 Nov; max 412 Const 19 Nov; best numbers from northwest OneiL.

Wood Duck: 35 WP 28 Sep – 14 Oct; max 215 DL 1 Oct.

Gadwall: arr Brewerton 10 Sep; 8 OnonL 15 Oct; 8 FH 1 Nov; max 49 SP 30 Nov.

Am. Wigeon: max 150 MNWR east 28 Oct & 150 FH 1 Nov.

Am. Black Duck: 29 WP 15 Oct; max 48 DH 16 Oct.

Mallard: 244 Brewerton 10 Sep; max 249 WP 28 Nov.

Am. Wigeon X Mallard: TR 14 Sep (GD).

Blue-winged Teal: max 10 Little Falls 16 Sep; 8 HI 16 – 23 Sep; last 8 WP 17 Oct.

N. Shoveler: 9 DL 1 Oct; max 13 MNWR east 28 Oct; 12 UM 1 Nov.

N. Pintail: arr Central Square 8 Sep; 113 DH 30 Oct; max 128 FH 1 Nov.

Green-winged Teal: max 32 FH 10 Oct; 26 WP 12 – 26 Oct.

Canvasback: no reports.

Redhead: arr SP 11 Sep; 12 OneiL 15 Nov; max 19 Cazenovia 20 Nov; relatively few reports.

Ring-necked Duck: max 345 West Eaton 15

Nov; 260 WP 19 Nov; best numbers from MADI.

Greater Scaup: 13 DL 3 Oct; 19 FH 1 Nov; max 22 SP 12 Nov.

Lesser Scaup: arr 2 DL 1 Oct; 78 DH 30 Oct; max 115 12 Nov.

King Eider: 3 DH 19 Nov (BP), only report.

Surf Scoter: arr 2 OswH 9 Oct; max 52 DH 30 Oct.

White-winged Scoter: arr 46 DH 16 Oct; max 157 DH 30 Oct; 38 FH 11 Nov.

Black Scoter: arr 2 DH 16 Oct; 195 DH 30 Oct; max 233 SSSP 1 Nov.

Long-tailed Duck: arr FH 28 Oct; max 300 DH 6 Nov; 130 SSSP 12 Nov.

Bufflehead: arr 2 Oswego 20 Oct; 30 SP 4 Nov; max 80 FH 2 Nov; 60 Erieville 15 Nov.

Com. Goldeneye: arr 14 DH 30 Oct; 20 Otisco Lake 13 Nov; max 50 West Eaton 25 Nov.

Hooded Merganser: 63 DeRuyter 14 Nov; max 100 BLNC 21 Nov; 77 Otisco Lake 25 Nov.

Com. Merganser: 230 SVB 15 Oct; max 320 West Eaton 30 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: arr 7 DH 16 Oct; 350 DH 11 Nov; max 400 OswH 25 Nov.

Ruddy Duck: arr WP 11 Sep; max 39 BLNC 7 Oct; 31 WP 22 Oct.

Ring-necked Pheasant: max 4 Tully 23 – 29 Sep & 4 HI 17 Nov; reports of mostly singles from 10 locations.

Ruffed Grouse: max 7 SH 23 Sep; 2 SFNS 17 Oct; 2 Fairfield 5 Nov; 2 Hast 25 Nov.

Wild Turkey: 15 Richland 2 Sep; max 27 SH 30 Sep – 6 Oct.

Red-throated Loon: arr FH 28 Oct; 2 DH 6 Nov; max 4 FH 14 Nov; 2 OswH 25 Nov.

Com. Loon: max 68 DH 6 Nov (DWe), good number; 15 OswH 7 Nov; 19 FH 14 Nov.

Pied-billed Grebe: 9 SSSP 14 Sep; 10 FH 10 Oct; max 21 DeRuyter 11 Nov; 9 Cazenovia 20 Nov.

Horned Grebe: max 37 DH 4 Nov; 21 FH 14

Nov.

Red-necked Grebe: arr DL 3 Oct; max 2 FH 7 Nov; individuals at 3 other locs.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 430 OswH 5 Sep; 425 Lysander 30 Sep.

Least Bittern: 2 HI 16 Sep, only report.

Great Blue Heron: max 26 Lysander 30 Sep.

Great Egret: 11 OnonL 6 Sep; max 20 HI 16 Sep; 8 Hamilton 21 Sep; last OnonL 12 Nov, late.

Cattle Egret: TR 25, 27 Oct (GD); Poolville, MADI 3 Nov (EAS); Brewerton 4 Nov (DA).

Green Heron: max 25 Volney 1 Sep; 6 DeWitt 2 Sep; 4 UM 10 – 12 Sep; 2 OnonL 27 Oct, late; last OnonL 24 Oct - 23 Nov (DD), *intro*, rec late for Reg.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 5 HI 15 Sep; max 7 OnonL 31 Oct (DD); only 2 locs.

HAWKS - LARIDS

Turkey Vulture: 63 DH 16 Oct; 52 Phoenix 17 Oct; 63 DH 3 Nov; max 454 BRH 11 Oct.

Osprey: max 6 Hast 9 Sep; last WP 9 Nov.

Bald Eagle: 7 DH 2 Sep; 7 SP 5 Sep; 7 MNWR east 30 Sep; 7 DH 16 Oct; Bville 3 Nov (JS), rehab case, tangled in fishing line; max 8 BRH 4 Nov.

N. Harrier: 2 UM 12 Sep; 2 TR 22 Oct; 2 SFNS 28 Oct; max 5 BRH 4 Nov.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 3 Hast 9 Sep; max 10 BRH 11 Oct; 3 DH 28 Oct.

Cooper's Hawk: 4 Const 29 Sep; max 6 BRH 11 Oct.

N. Goshawk: DH 28 Oct, only report.

Red-shouldered Hawk: singles at 7 locs.

Broad-winged Hawk: max 129 Hast 9 Sep; 12 Syr 9 Sep; last Dolgeville 28 Sep.

Red-tailed Hawk: max 49 BRH 4 Nov; 7 DH 9 Nov.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr BRH 11 Oct; max 4 BRH 4 Nov; 5 other locs.

Golden Eagle: arr Hinckley Reservoir 26 Oct; WP 4 Nov; South Columbia, HERK 23 Nov; Lysander 28 Nov; only reports.

Virginia Rail: 2 Madison 15 Sep; max 3 HI 16 Sep; Madison 19 Sep; last CM 19 Oct.

Sora: OnonL 14 Sep, unusual loc (DD), only report.

Com. Gallinule: max 9 Madison 9 Sep; 8 Volney 12 Sep; 5 HI 16 Sep; last OnonL 15 Oct.

Am. Coot: max 40 MNWR east 28 Oct; 34 OnonL 5 Nov; 24 Skan 13 Nov.

Sandhill Crane: max 5 Conquest 10 Sep; last 2 DH 9 Nov; reports from 3 other locs.

Black-bellied Plover: max 3 SHTF 5 – 30 Sep;

2 SP 5 Sep; last FH 7 Nov.

Am. Golden-Plover: max 9 SHTF 5 Sep; last 3 DL 1 Oct.

Semipalmated Plover: max 9 SP 1 Sep; 8 SHTF 4 Sep; 8 OnonL 11 Sep; last OSP 29 Sep.

Killdeer: 50 SHTF 3 Sep; max 86 OnonL 15 Oct; last SP 12 Nov.

Spotted Sandpiper: 2 SP 1 Sep; 2 Oswego 6 Sep; 2 OnonL 10 – 14 Sep; last OF 22 Sep.

Solitary Sandpiper: 2 Madison 11 – 24 Sep; 2 Amboy 12 Sep; 2 OLC 27 Sep; last 2 OLC 27 Sep.

Greater Yellowlegs: 6 Madison 19 Sep; 6 OnonL 14 – 21 Oct; max & last 9 Port Byron 6 Nov.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 17 Madison 8 Sep; 7 Port Byron 4 Nov; last 4 Port Byron 6 Nov.

Ruddy Turnstone: OswH 3 – 4 Sep; SVB 14 Sep; OswH 14 – 16 Sep; only reports.

Red Knot: 2 SP 4 Sep, only report.

Stilt Sandpiper: SP 1 Sep, only report.

Sanderling: max 40 SP 5 Sep; 18 DL 3 Oct; 23 FH 1 Nov; last 2 FH 7 Nov.

Dunlin: 18 Port Byron 6 Nov; max 75 FH 31 Oct; last 2 FH 11 Nov.

Purple Sandpiper: FH 20 Oct – 29 Oct (GD), early.

Least Sandpiper: 7 SP 1 Sep; 8 Jamesville 4 Sep; max 9 Madison 14 Sep.

White-rumped Sandpiper: 2 Madison 14 – 15 Sep; last Conquest 11 Nov.

Pectoral Sandpiper: 11 DL 1 Oct; max 13 OnonL 22 Oct; last 2 Port Byron 6 Nov.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 5 SP 1 Sep; max 18 OnonL 11 Sep; 5 Madison 14 Sep; last 2 Madison 19 Sep.

Short-billed Dowitcher: SP 2 Sep; Jamesville 7 Sep; only reports.

Long-billed Dowitcher: 5 MNWR east 28 Oct (AN), only report.

Wilson's Snipe: max 6 HI 16 Sep & 6 TR 7 Oct; last WP 28 Nov.

Am. Woodcock: 3 HI 16 Sep; 3 TR 7 Oct; max 4 TR 3 – 25 Oct; 3 Tully 21 Oct.

Red Phalarope: max 2 DH 30 Oct; last DH 10 Nov; only reports.

Red-necked Phalarope/Red Phalarope: DH 30 Oct.

Parasitic Jaeger: arr OswH 9 Oct (DW); FH 20 Oct (MG); max 4 DH 30 Oct.

jaeger species: FH 3 Sep (DW); OswH 4 Sep (DW); FH 20 Oct (GD); OswH 20 Oct (GD).

Black-legged Kittiwake: DH 30 Oct; max 3 DH 19 Nov (BP); only reports.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 250 SVB 14 Sep; 161 OLC 16 Oct; last 3 Cleveland 29 Nov.

Little Gull: FH 28 Oct (DW, DD, TS); FH 2 Nov (DD); DH 10 Nov (BP, KM, DA).
LAUGHING GULL/FRANKLIN'S GULL: DH 6 Nov (DWe).
Ring-billed Gull: max 5200 DH 10 Nov; 1500 OLC 12 Nov.
Herring Gull: 140 OswH 9 Oct; max 789 DH 19 Nov.
Iceland Gull: arr FH 11 Nov; DH 19 Nov; OswH 22 Nov.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: SP 12 Nov, only report.
Glaucous Gull: Phoenix 8 Nov; OswH 10 Nov; FH 24 Nov.
Great Black-backed Gull: max 43 SVB 10 Sep; 20 OswH 9 Oct.
Caspian Tern: 32 SP 1 – 4 Sep; max 65 SVB 10 Sep; last 2 FH 17 Oct.
Com. Tern: 8 OSP 10 Sep; max 150 SVB 14 Sep; last 27 SVB 15 Oct.
Com. Tern/Forster's Tern: 2 Bridgeport 23 Sep.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Rock Pigeon: 150 OswH 28 Sep; 160 Phoenix 1 Nov; max 328 n Syr 28 Nov.
Mourning Dove: 74 OnonL 17 Sep; max 77 Dolge 22 Nov.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Mexico 11 Sep (JS), vehicle impact; last 2 HI 16 Sept & 2 Hamilton 16 Sep; only reports.
Black-billed Cuckoo: max 2 Hast 7 Sep; HI 16 Sep; last Erieville 17 Sep.
E. Screech-Owl: 2 HI 15 Sep; 2 Manlius 20 Sep – 17 Nov; 2 Waterville 24 Oct.
Great Horned Owl: 2 Manlius 7 – 16 Sep; 2 Fayetteville 24 Sep; 2 Waterville 22 Oct – 9 Nov.
Snowy Owl: OswH 21 Nov; FH 24 Nov; Utica 25 Nov; Parrish 25 Nov (JS), vehicle impact; OLC 26 Nov; only reports.
Barred Owl: 3 Mexico 13 Sep; 3 HI 16 Sep; max 5 OF 23 Sep; 3 Tully 21 Oct.
Short-eared Owl: n Syr 17 Nov (JS), vehicle impact; 2 TR 17 Nov.
N. Saw-whet Owl: Redfield 12 Nov (DS), vehicle impact, only report.
Com. Nighthawk: max 12 SSSP 2 Sep; 7 BRH 2 Sep; 10 TR 3 Sep; 5 WP 3 Sep; last TR 15 Sep.
Chimney Swift: max 3 Syr 1 Sep; SP 1 Sep; last WP 3 Sep. last & max 91 Weedsport 13 Sep (MA), entering roost.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 8 Stillwater Reservoir 2 Sep; max 45 SP 4 Sep (WF), good number; 6 SFNS 8 Sep; last Bridgeport 23 Sep.

Belted Kingfisher: 6 SP 24 Sep; max 9 HI 30 Sep; 5 DL 3 Oct.
Red-headed Woodpecker: Noyes Sanctuary 15 Sep, only report.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 6 SFNS 7 Sep & 6 OSP 10 Sep & 6 Syr 24 Sep.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 3 VBSP 10 Sep; 3 Hamilton 23 Sep; 3 TR 24 Sep – 3 Oct; max 4 TR 13 Oct.
Downy Woodpecker: 10 SFNS 2 – 15 Sep; max 11 OSP 10 Sep.
Hairy Woodpecker: max 4 SFNS 7 – 15 Sep & 4 Dolge 11 Sep – 12 Nov & 4 HI 23 Sep.
N. Flicker: 8 SH 6 Sep; 9 TR 23 Sep; 10 TR 24 – 26 Sep; max 11 CM 1 Nov.
Pileated Woodpecker: 4 OSP 10 Sep; 4 OF 23 Sep; max FH 28 Nov.
Am. Kestrel: 3 SHTF 5 – 10 Sep; 3 Hast 9 Sep; 3 SH 7 Sep; max 9 Deerfield 14 Sep.
Merlin: 2 OSP 10 Sep; 2 FH 6 Oct; widespread reports of singles.
Peregrine Falcon: resident pr in Utica thru; max 3 Syr 2 Oct; singles from 10 locs.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: max 3 SP 1 Sep (WF); 1-2 Syr 1-10 Sep (DD); 2 SFNS 4 Sep (MP); last Hamilton 12 Sep (GM).
E. Wood-Pewee: 7 GLSP 9 Sep; max 10 Syr 10 Sep; last Hastings 20 Oct (BP), rec late for Reg.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Jamesville 6 Sep; OSP 10 Sep; TR 12 Sep; Dolge 13 Sep; last Tully 2 Oct.
Willow Flycatcher: Hast 4 Sep; last TR 7 Sep.
Alder/Willow Flycatcher: 2 TR 1 Sep; 2 HI 16 Sep; last GB 18 Sep.
Least Flycatcher: max 3 SP 2 Sep & 3 SH 8 Sep & 3 SFNS 8 Sep; last 2 Hamilton 23 Sep.
Empidonax species: max 8 SP 2 Sep.
E. Phoebe: max 9 SP 2 Sep; 6 WP 6 Sep; 6 UM 10 Sep; last OLC 1 Nov.
Great Crested Flycatcher: 2 UM 10 – 12 Sep; last 2 FH 15 Sep.
E. Kingbird: 2 SP 4 Sep; last DH 13 Sep.
N. Shrike: arr SH 22 Nov; 7 other reports of singles.
Yellow-throated Vireo: 2 SSSP 9 Sep; 2 Const 10 Sep; max 3 HI 16 Sep; last Const 27 Sep.
Blue-headed Vireo: max 4 OF 24 Sep & 4 Bridgeport 24 Sep; last Dolge 24 Oct.
Warbling Vireo: 5 FH 2 Sep; max 7 SP 2 Sep & 7 OLC 17 Sep; last TR 25 Sep.
Philadelphina Vireo: 2 DH 8 – 9 Sep; 2 OSP 10 Sep; 2 TR 15 Sep; 2 HI 16 Sep; last BLNC 27 Oct (JB), late.

Red-eyed Vireo: 11 SP 2 Sep; max 24 Brewton 10 Sep; last SH & OLC 5 Oct.

Gray Jay: OF 23 Sep (CW).

Blue Jay: 184 Const 26 Sep; max 427 Const 29 Sep; 36 TR 1 Oct.

Am. Crow: 3920 BRH 4 Nov; max 10000 Utica 12 Nov (DM); 2515 Syr 28 Nov.

Fish Crow: 3 WP 26 Oct; max 8 Syr 21 Nov; singles and small numbers at expected locs.

Com. Raven: 8 DH 16 Oct; max 14 Grant, HERK 19 Nov; 6 OF 29 Nov; widespread reports.

Horned Lark: 17 SHTF 6 Sep; max 140 BRH 5 Nov; 28 Paris 27 Nov; relatively few reports.

Purple Martin: max 19 TR 7 Sep; last 2 HI 16 Sep.

Tree Swallow: max 850 HI 8 Oct; 28 BRH 11 Oct; 75 FH 1 Nov; last 6 FH 7 Nov.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: 2 WP 3 Sep; max & last 25 HI 16 Sep; only 2 locs.

Bank Swallow: 4 TR 3 Sep; max 28 HI 16 Sep; last HI 8 Oct (JM), late.

Barn Swallow: max 62 Mallory 3 Sep; 40 SHTF 5 Sep; 20 OLC 8 Sep; last TR 19 Sep.

Cliff Swallow: OswH 3 – 5 Sep; last HI 16 Sep; only reports.

CAVE SWALLOW: max 3 FH 1 Nov (GD); FH 7 Nov (GD, DA); only reports.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 24 Sterling 2 Sep & 24 HI 16 Sep.

Boreal Chickadee: 3 OF 23 Sep (CW, JB).

Tufted Titmouse: max 10 SFNS 4 Sep & 10 Syr 10 Sep.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 9 Hamilton 20 Sep; 8 OF 24 Sep; max 16 Tully 21 Oct.

White-breasted Nuthatch: 10 GLSP 9 Sep; 10 OSP 10 Sep; max 11 HI 16 Sep.

Brown Creeper: 4 FH 10 Oct; max 3 VBSP 16 Sep & 3 TR 29 Sep.

House Wren: 5 SP 1 Sep; 5 DH 2 Sep; max 8 TR 15 Sep; last SFNS 22 Oct.

Winter Wren: 4 TR 29 Sep; 4 TR 12 Oct; 4 BLNC 27 Oct; max 8 SFNS 31 Oct.

Marsh Wren: max 8 HI 16 Sep; 2 TR 27 Sep; SSSP 12 Nov (BP).

Sedge Wren: Cato 15 Sep (MA, ph).

Carolina Wren: 2 Marcellus 9 – 10 Oct; max 4 Fayetteville 20 Oct.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 2 SP 2 Sep; max 3 West Monroe 10 Sep; 2 TR 6 Sep; 2 TR 6 Sep; last 2 TR & Dolge 13 Sep.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: 20 SFNS 10 Oct; max 25 Grant 19 Nov.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 17 FH 10 Oct; 12 SFNS 12 Oct; max 25 DH 14 Oct; last DH 11 Nov.

E. Bluebird: max 23 SH 8 Oct; 20 Baltimore Woods 4 Nov.

Veery: max 17 OSP 10 Sep (SD, TA, ID), nocturnal flight calls; last SP 5 Oct; singles at 10 other locs.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: 4 OSP 10 Sep; max 25 HI 16 Sep (RB, NK), nocturnal flight calls, great number; last 5 TR 29 Sep.

Swainson's Thrush: max 195 OSP 10 Sep (SD, TA, ID), nocturnal flight calls; 40 HI 16 Sep (RB, NK), nocturnal flight calls; 8 TR 16 Sep; 14 OF 23 Sep; last Tully 21 Oct.

Hermit Thrush: max 7 OF 1 Sep; 4 SFNS 28 – 29 Oct.

Wood Thrush: 3 SFNS 2 – 15 Sep; 3 OSP 10 Sep; max 12 HI 16 Sep; last SFNS 10 Oct.

Am. Robin: 93 TR 3 Sep; 89 Tully 7 Oct; max 220 SFNS 5 Nov.

Gray Catbird: 16 SP 2 Sep; 17 OSP 10 Sep & 17 TR 15 Sep; max 20 CM 20 Nov; last OnonL 12 Nov.

N. Mockingbird: max 3 OnonL 19 Sep & 3 Syr 25 Oct; only one report east of OneiL.

Brown Thrasher: max 3 SP 1 Sep & 3 SFNS 4 Sep & 3 GLSP 16 Sep; last DB 15 Oct.

European Starling: 600 HI 8 Oct; 800 Mexico 28 Nov; max 980 DH 21 Oct.

Am. Pipit: 40 SHTF 30 Sep; 22 Port Byron 6 Nov; max 45 Fabius 3 Nov; last 4 Fabius 21 Nov.

Cedar Waxwing: 40 Scriba 1 Sep; 65 SFNS 8 Sep; max 309 DH 28 Nov.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: arr FH 4 Nov; OswH 7 Nov; only reports.

Snow Bunting: arr FH 25 Oct; max 125 FH 5 Nov; 45 Tully 17 Nov.

Ovenbird: max 2 GB 3 Sep; last OF 23 Sep.

N. Waterthrush: SP 2 Sep; OSP 10 Sep; last SFNS 17 Sep.

Blue-winged Warbler: max 3 SH 4 Sep; last Hamilton 23 Sep.

“Brewster’s” Warbler: SSSP 2 Sep, only report.

Black-and-white Warbler: 2 Hamilton 4 Sep; last 2 Hamilton 24 Sep.

Tennessee Warbler: 4 OSP 10 Sep; 4 Hamilton 11 Sep; max 6 UM 12 Sep; 5 SFNS 15 Sep; last SH 9 Oct.

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr OF 23 Sep; 2 TR 11 Oct; 2 Mexico 14 Oct; last 2 TR 21 Oct; singles at 2 other locs.

Nashville Warbler: max 3 OSP 10 Sep & 3 HI 16 Sep & 3 GLSP 1 Oct; last Solvay 12 Nov (DD), rec late for Reg.

Connecticut Warbler: Dolge 25 Sep (LH).
Mourning Warbler: max 2 SHTF 7 Sep; SFNS 7 Sep; Madison 15 Sep; last SFNS 16 Sep.
Com. Yellowthroat: 10 OSP 10 Sep; max 11 Hast 15 Sep; last GLSP 20 Oct.
Hooded Warbler: 2 BLNC 1 Sep; 2 SH 1 Sep; 2 Sterling 2 Sep; last SFNS 23 Sep.
Am. Redstart: 5 Sterling 2 Sep; 5 SFNS 8 Sep; max 8 OSP 10 Sep; last BLNC 2 Nov.
Cape May Warbler: 3 SH 4 Sep; 3 Oswego 6 Sep; max 6 OSP 10 Sep; last FH 1 Nov, late; many reports.
N. Parula: 3 SP 2 Sep; max 4 OSP 10 Sep; 3 SP 11 Sep; 3 OnonL 3 Oct; last OnonL 17 Oct.
Magnolia Warbler: 11 SP 2 Sep; 10 TR 10 Sep; max 18 OSP 10 Sep; last SFNS 10 Oct.
Bay-breasted Warbler: max 6 SFNS 6 Sep; 4 OSP 10 Sep; 3 HI 16 Sep; last TR 8 Oct.
Blackburnian Warbler: max 2 Hamilton 7 Sep; last Dolge 7 Oct; relatively few reports.
Yellow Warbler: 3 Oswego 6 Sep; max 6 SP 2 Sep; 2 OnonL 15 Sep; last Fabius 29 Sep.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 3 Hamilton 7 Sep & 3 OSP 10 Sep & 3 Hamilton 12 Sep.
Blackpoll Warbler: max 5 OSP 10 Sep; 3 SFNS 15 Sep; 3 Hast 15 Sep; last Syr 12 Oct.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 2 Hamilton 13 Sep & 2 SFNS 21 Sep; FH 10 Oct; poor numbers.
Palm Warbler: 4 Madison 19 Sep; max 15 TR 8 Oct; 4 SFNS 10 Oct; SFNS 31 Oct.
Pine Warbler: 2 Dolge 16 Sep – 3 Oct; 2 OF 23 – 24 Sep; last Dolge 15 Oct.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: 24 OswH 9 Oct; 30 SFNS 11 Oct; max 32 TR 22 Oct.
Prairie Warbler: Hamilton 20 Sep, only report.
Black-throated Green Warbler: max 6 SP 1 Sep & 6 OSP 10 Sep; 5 UM 10 Sep; last SFNS 12 Oct.
Canada Warbler: SSSP 2 Sep, only report.
Wilson's Warbler: max 5 SP 2 Sep; 3 OSP 10 Sep; 2 OswH 11 Sep; 2 UM 12 Sep; last SFNS 28 Sep.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: 6 SFNS 1 – 10 Sep; max 8 TR 27 Sep; last Dolge 3 Nov.
Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Dolge 2 Nov; 8 Dolge 22 – 28 Nov; max 15 TR 23 Nov.
Chipping Sparrow: 20 Van Buren 6 Oct; max 39 Syr 25 Oct.
Field Sparrow: 6 GLSP 16 Sep; 6 GLSP 16 Sep; max 9 TR 30 Sep; 6 Jamesville 1 Oct; last 2 OnonL 11 Nov.

Vesper Sparrow: 2 Prospect, HERK 11 Oct; last Lysander 27 Oct; singles at 3 other locs.
Savannah Sparrow: 2 HI 16 Sep; max 8 SHTF 1 Oct; 2 Dolge 18 Sep – 21 Oct; 2 SFNS 23 Sep; last Dolge 9 Nov.
Fox Sparrow: arr 2 Fulton 1 Oct; max 3 TR 21 Oct; last SFNS 22 Nov.
Song Sparrow: 25 SFNS 2 Sep; max 30 TR 15 Sep; 25 HI 8 Oct.
Lincoln's Sparrow: max 4 TR 15 Sep; 3 HI 16 Sep; 3 TR 23 Sep – 8 Oct; last Dolge & CM 21 Oct.
Swamp Sparrow: 15 TR 4 Oct; max 18 HI 8 Oct; last Fayetteville 17 Nov.
White-throated Sparrow: max 70 SFNS 18 Oct; 55 GLSP 14 Oct; 60 TR 21 Oct.
White-crowned Sparrow: max 20 TR 5 Oct; 11 Syr 7 Oct; last Manlius 6 Nov.
Dark-eyed Junco: 20 OnonL 31 Oct; 22 FH 1 Nov; max 40 FH 1 Nov; 20 Fabius 12 Nov.
Scarlet Tanager: max 4 SFNS 1 Sep; 2 HI 16 – 17 Sep; 2 Hamilton 16 Sep; last Manlius 1 Oct.
N. Cardinal: max 12 HI 16 Sep; 10 OnonL 5 Oct.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 8 SHTF 5 – 7 Sep; 6 OSP 10 Sep; 5 SFNS 21 Sep; last SFNS 5 Oct.
Indigo Bunting: max 3 Salisbury 5 Sep; 2 SFNS 11 Sep; last SFNS 4 Oct; only 10 reports.
Bobolink: max 37 SFNS 2 Sep; 25 Fabius 7 Sep; 28 HI 16 Sep; last OF 24 Sep.
Red-winged Blackbird: max 17300 BRH 4 Nov; 15000 Port Byron 6 Nov; 2000 OnonL 11 Nov.
E. Meadowlark: max 7 BRH 11 Oct; last SFNS 18 Oct; reports from 5 other locs.
Rusty Blackbird: 15 WP 4 Oct; 16 Kirkville 10 Oct; max 62 TR 27 Oct; last 3 Waterville 25 Nov.
Com. Grackle: 3300 Hast 6 Nov; max 355000 OLC 4 Nov (DD), *intro*; 3400 NSyr 8 Nov.
Brown-headed Cowbird: 35 Canastota 14 Sep; max 80 MNWR east 16 Sep.
Baltimore Oriole: max 5 SFNS 1 Sep; last 3 OnonL 8 Sep; few reports.
blackbird species: max 250000 Const 2 Nov (MS).
House Finch: 15 n Syr 12 Oct; 15 West Winfield 10 Nov; max 18 OswH 19 Nov; 15 Dolge 22 – 29 Nov.
Purple Finch: 7 Mexico 14 Oct; max 8 SH 21 Oct; 6 Manlius 23 Nov.
Red Crossbill: 2 OF 23 Sep; SH 21 Oct; only reports.
White-winged Crossbill: 7 SH 1 Nov, only

report

Pine Siskin: 12 DH 22 Oct; max 30 SFNS 23 Oct; 14 SH 25 Nov.

Am. Goldfinch: 75 SFNS 11 Oct; 430 DH 23 Oct; 575 DH 9 Nov.

Evening Grosbeak: max 2 OF 22 Sep; handful of reports all from ADKs.

House Sparrow: 40 SFNS 2 Sep; max 50 OnonL 30 Sep.

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REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

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The season started off cool, with below average high temperatures most days during the first half of September. However, the mean temperature for the month was 1-3 degrees above average for most of the Region thanks to an unseasonable warm spell that lasted for much of the last half of September, with highs reaching or exceeding 80°F in Watertown on 11 consecutive days starting on 17 September. Relatively warm weather persisted through most of October, with temperatures cooling off during the last week of the month. Temperatures were up and down through the rest of the season, with November's average temperature being slightly cooler than normal. September was very dry, and about average precipitation fell in November, but October was very wet, especially near Lake Ontario, where many locations received more than double average precipitation for the month. Most of October's rain fell during three storms, with Watertown receiving 1.2" on 4 October, 3.7" on 9 October, and 4.4" on 29-30 October.

Waterfowl numbers were widely reported to be rather low with a few exceptions, such as at Wilson Hill WMA, where a refilling pool that NYSDEC had drained during the spring and summer attracted large numbers of dabbling ducks but very few of the diving ducks that usually gather here. For instance over the past decade peak counts of Northern Pintail and Green-winged Teal in this pool never exceeded 100 until this year, when high counts nearly reached 1000 for both species. By contrast, the raft of 2000-4000 or more Ring-necked Ducks and other *Aythya* that normally forms here never materialized, but Canadian birders reported unusually large numbers of these diving ducks a few miles to the northeast. Other noteworthy waterfowl at Wilson Hill included a Greater White-fronted Goose on 28 October and a Eurasian Wigeon found that same date and seen for a little over a week. Elsewhere, the only notable duck sightings were three King Eider, including one shot by a hunter on an island in the St. Lawrence River, where this species is rarely documented, and rafts of 63 Ruddy Ducks at Kring Point State Park and 92 Ruddy Ducks at Perch River WMA, both exceptional in a Region where double-digit counts are exceedingly

rare. Goose migration barely registered this season, with Snow Geese virtually absent, but impressive numbers of Tundra Swans congregated at the Black River Bay staging area in November.

Shorebirds were surprisingly scarce at Wilson Hill WMA in early September, where rising water did not start to cover the extensive mudflats until the middle of the month. The shorebird highlight from Wilson Hill was a Red Phalarope that made a brief appearance on 4 November, the third record on the New York side of this stretch of river since 2009. Several American Golden-Plovers were at Wilson Hill in September, but far more shorebirds used nearby mudflats along the edge of the St. Lawrence River, where power authority management led to highly variable but mostly very low water levels for much of September and early October. The bulk of the season's shorebird reports came from such areas, especially Whalen Park, within two miles of Wilson Hill and where a **Western Sandpiper** on 4 September was the most noteworthy find. Elsewhere, very high water levels throughout the season left little shorebird habitat along Lake Ontario or the St. Lawrence River upstream from the Iroquois Dam, but Nick Leone managed to find a few shorebirds near the lake, including five Long-billed Dowitchers at a wetland in Lyme on 10 October. Shorebirds were largely unreported away from these few locations.

With one exception, the songbird migration was widely considered to be lackluster, and in many areas it seemed like very few warblers moved at all. The exception was the southern part of Fort Drum, where the heavy passerine migration first seen in late August continued well into September, and migrant flocks were both larger and more numerous than usual. Some of these flocks included warbler numbers that far exceed what is normally reported in Region 6, for instance 70+ Cape May Warblers in one huge foraging flock on 8 September compared to typical maximum daily counts of ten or fewer. Other species that were unusually abundant included Tennessee, Nashville, and Bay-breasted Warblers, but, at least on Fort Drum, most warbler species passed through in excellent numbers. The very active migration was welcome after the previous two very slow fall seasons on Fort Drum, and this difference was nowhere more noticeable than in a patch of open oak woodland where Pine Warblers, Eastern Bluebirds, and Chipping Sparrows usually form the nucleus of a large, persistent foraging flock. During 2015 and 2016 the flocks at this site were very small compared with the previous seven years, but this year were the largest documented, with high counts of 60 Pine Warblers, 32 Eastern Bluebirds, and 160 Chipping Sparrows joined by a constantly changing mix of other migrants. Oddly scarce was Blackpoll Warbler, often among the most abundant fall migrants, but this year few were reported everywhere, even among the large warbler flocks on Fort Drum.

Passerine highlights included two **Nelson's Sparrows** at Fort Drum on 12 October that were almost exactly where one was found in 2014. There are only five or six records of this secretive species in Region 6, but given the abundance of habitat in Jefferson County it seems likely that Nelson's Sparrow occurs more

frequently than records suggest. A **White-eyed Vireo** in the Lewis County portion of Fort Drum on 5 October was a first county record as far as I can tell and a second record for the Army installation. Songbird highlights elsewhere seemed hard to come by, but there were a few, one being Philadelphia Vireo, as the 26 individuals reported throughout Region 6 was well above average. By the end of the season no large influx of irruptives was apparent, but a few finches were reported, including single Pine Grosbeaks on Fort Drum on 3 and 7 November and Red Crossbills at two locations, including a small group of Type 3 Red Crossbills that Jeremy Collison recorded at the Oswegatchie Education Center in Lewis County.

For the season I received reports of 223 species, about average for recent years. Probably the highlight was the very active songbird migration documented on Fort Drum, including a couple of Regional rarities. But few birders were able to witness these birds, and among the low points was the general lack of migrants in many portions of the Region. Also worth noting is a continued increase in the number of observers reporting birds to eBird throughout Region 6, including both more local residents and more birders visiting from other regions. Not many years ago just two or three observers consistently accounted for 80-90% of all first and last dates cited in this report, but for the past couple of years such sightings have been spread out among a much larger number of birders.

CONTRIBUTORS

Tom Auer, Marilyn Badger, John Barthelme, Alan Belford, Brian Berg, Jeff Bolsinger, Richard & Marion Brouse, Carol Cady, Bernie Carr, Jeremy Collison, Ian Davies, Robert Dieterich, Benjamin Dixon, Adriaan Doktor, Sarah Dzielski, Lee Ellsworth, Doug & Ann Emlin, Wayne Fidler, Jared Gadsby, Will Gallup, Wendi Haugh, Richard Kaskan, Steve Kelling, Nick Leone, Brian Miller, Daniel Miller, Jason Murray, Cody Nichols, Eugene Nichols, Fred Ossman, Bill Purcell, Mandi Roggie, Michael Scheibel, Glenn Seeholzer, Antony Shrimpton, Gerry Smith, Eric Soehren, Andrew Spencer, John Trent, Eileen & Tom Wheeler, Hollis White, Nathaniel Young, Adam Zions.

ABBREVIATIONS

AFWMA – Ashland Flats WMA; **BI** – Barnhart Island, T Massena; **BPWMA** – Black Pond WMA; **BRB** – Black River Bay; **BRV** – Black River Valley; **CB** – Chaumont Barrens Preserve; **CCSP** – Coles Creek SP; **CV** – T Cape Vincent; **CWF** – Canton Wastewater Treatment Facility; **FD** – Fort Drum Military Installation; **GLR** – Grand Lakes Reserve, T Redwood; **HH** – Henderson Harbor; **HP** – Hawkins Pt, T Massena; **ICNC** – Indian Creek Nature Center, T Canton; **JCSP** – Jacques Cartier SP; **KC** – Kelsey Creek, T Watertown; **KPSP** – Kring Point SP; **LWMA** – Lakeview WMA; **MM** – Massawepie Mire; **OEC** – Oswegatchie Education Center, T Croghan; **PilPt** – Pillar Pt, JEFF; **PRWMA** – Perch River WMA; **PtPen** – Point Peninsula, JEFF; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP, T Massena; **RRt** – Remington Recreation Trail, T Canton; **StPt** – Stony Pt, T Henderson, JEFF; **SBSP** – Southwick Beach SP; **ULLWMA** – Upper and Lower Lakes

WMA, T Canton; **WBSP** – Westcott Beach SP; **WHWMA** – Wilson Hill WMA; **WISP** – Wellesley I SP; **WP** – Whalen Pk, T Louisville.

WATERFOWL - VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: WHWMA 28 Oct (JB), only report.

Snow Goose: arr SBSP 11 Oct; max 175 T Lawrence 18 Nov; no significant migration.

Brant: arr BI 7 Oct; max CCSP 1 Nov; last CCSP 4 Nov.

Cackling Goose: BRV 11 Nov (BP), only report.

Canada Goose: many fewer moving than normal.

Mute Swan: max 17 T Clayton 11 Nov.

Trumpeter Swan: max 10 PRWMA 19 Sep; migrants PtPen 11 Nov & WHWMA 18 Nov.

Tundra Swan: max count 985 at traditional BRB staging area 24 Nov; some observers estimated as many as 2000 at same location.

Wood Duck: last T Canton 7 Nov.

Gadwall: max 160 WHWMA 4 Nov.

Eurasian Wigeon: WHWMA where annual 28 Oct to 6 Nov (JB, EW).

Am. Wigeon: max 750 WHWMA 4-5 Nov.

Am. Black Duck: max 150 WHWMA 4 Nov.

Blue-winged Teal: max 240 ULLWMA 30 Sep; last 10 WHWMA 10 Nov.

N. Shoveler: max 30 CWF 30 Oct.

N. Pintail: max 950 WHWMA 4 Nov.

Green-winged Teal: max 950 WHWMA 28 Oct.

Canvasback: no reports.

Redhead: max 8 WHWMA 21 Oct; large raft that normally forms WHWMA failed to appear, *intro*.

Ring-necked Duck: max 1365 ULLWMA 7 Oct; 70 high count WHWMA 7 Oct, far below usual max of 2000-4000+, *intro*.

Greater Scaup: max 610 BRB 24 Nov, low.

Lesser Scaup: max 60 WHWMA 28 Oct.

King Eider: f shot by hunter Long Sault Is 4 Nov (photos!); f L Ontario of BPWMA 24 Nov (JB); y m PilPt 30 Nov (NL, RB).

Surf Scoter: arr CCSP 7 Oct; max 4 ED 27 Oct.

White-winged Scoter: arr T Ellisburg 16 Sep; max 41 CCSP 21 Oct.

Black Scoter: arr & max 18 CCSP 21 Oct.

Long-tailed Duck: arr KPSP 27 Oct; max 300 MP 24 Nov.

Bufflehead: arr PtPen 21 Oct; max 70 HH 24 Nov.

Com. Goldeneye: arr WHWMA 30 Sep; max 200 CV 12 Nov.

Hooded Merganser: max 42 PtPen 23 Nov.

Com. Merganser: max 106 CV 11 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 144 PtPen 25 Sep.

Ruddy Duck: 63 KPSP 27 Oct (JB); max 92 PRWMA 7 Nov (NL); double-digit counts rare R6.

Spruce Grouse: MM 22 Sep (MS), only report.

Red-throated Loon: arr CCSP 7 Oct; max 2 PilPt 4 Nov & CCSP 11 Nov.

Com. Loon: max 77 PilPt 4 Nov, site where high counts usually exceed 100; low numbers generally.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 61 ULLWMA 7 Oct.

Horned Grebe: arr ULLWMA 10 Oct; max 3 PtPen 14 Nov & CCSP 11 & 25 Nov; low.

Red-necked Grebe: arr AFWMA 13 Sep; max 8 JCSP 22 Oct.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 1380 JCSP 22 Oct.

Am. Bittern: last WHWMA 30 Sep.

Least Bittern: AFWMA 13 Sep (CN); last PRWMA 14 Sep (RB); rare fall reports.

Great Egret: max 37 WHWMA 24 Sep; last T Canton 16 Oct.

Green Heron: last T Watertown 19 Sep.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: last 6 PRWMA 19 Sep.

Turkey Vulture: T Denmark 21 Nov, only report after 8 Nov.

HAWKS - LARIDS

Osprey: last FD 11 Oct.

Golden Eagle: 2 ULLWMA 14 Sep; T Hounsfield 18 Sep; PtPen 8 Oct; juv FD 11 Nov; ad FD 21 Nov.

Red-shouldered Hawk: last T Canton 12 Oct.

Broad-winged Hawk: max 200 OEC 9 Sep (JC); last FD 19 Oct.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr ULLWMA 27 Oct.

Virginia Rail: last T Martinsburg 1 Oct.

Sora: 10+ ULLWMA 16 Sep, only report.

Com. Gallinule: max 6 PRWMA 26 Sep & FD 2 Oct; last PRWMA 5 Oct.

Am. Coot: max 100+ PRWMA early Nov.

Sandhill Crane: T Morristown 4 Sep (ET); 2 ad & 2 juv WHWMA 16-30 Sep (mob).

Black-bellied Plover: max 8 WP 14 Oct; last WHWMA 18 Nov.

Am. Golden-Plover: 5 reports 1-2 WHWMA 1-29 Sep; FD 8 Sep; ULLWMA 9 Sep; 2 FD 25 Sep; last T Brasher 20 Nov (HW, photos), late.

Semipalmated Plover: max 17 WP 10 Sep; last WHWMA 28 Oct (JB), late.
Killdeer: max 41 T Lyme; last WHWMA 28 Oct.
Spotted Sandpiper: last WP 24 Sep.
Solitary Sandpiper: only 3 reports, low; last Perch L 13 Sep.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 17 RMSP 13 Oct; last BRV 11 Nov.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 22 WHWMA 1 Sep; last 6 PRWMA 4 Oct.
Sanderling: max 4 LWMA 8 Sep; last 2 BI 29 Oct.
Dunlin: max 32 CCSP 21 Oct.
Least Sandpiper: max 17 WP 4 Sep; last WHWMA 29 Sep.
White-rumped Sandpiper: CCSP 28 Oct, only report.
Baird's Sandpiper: max & last 4 WHWMA 14 Sep.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 22 WP 15 Oct; last BI 29 Oct.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 70 WP 1 Sep; last WHWMA 19 Sep.
W. SANDPIPER (R6): WP 4 Sep (JB).
Long-billed Dowitcher: 5 T Lyme 10 Oct (NL).
Wilson's Snipe: last T Lyme 10 Oct; many fewer than usual.
Red Phalarope: WHWMA 4 Nov (JB).
Bonaparte's Gull: max 31 PilPt 1 Nov.
Iceland Gull: arr CCSP 11 Nov.
Herring Gull: max 340 BI 24 Sep.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 8 BI 11 Nov (AB), high.
Great Black-backed Gull: max 45 HP 25 Nov.
Caspian Tern: last CV & PtPen 17 Sep.
Com. Tern: last Ogden Is & PtPen 16 Sep.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Black-billed Cuckoo: last KC 13 Sep.
E. Screech-Owl: max 4 WBSP 27 Oct.
Snowy Owl: arr FD 23 Oct, early.
Short-eared Owl: CV 10 Nov, only report.
Com. Nighthawk: last T Canton 12 Sep.
E. Whip-poor-will: last T Diana 7 Oct, flushed by hunter.
Chimney Swift: last T Watertown 22 Sep.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last CV 18 Sep.
Red-headed Woodpecker: at least 3 ad still present FD end Nov, caching acorns.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: largely absent after 10 Oct; WBSP 15 Nov, possibly overwintering.
Merlin: 23 reports.

Peregrine Falcon: T Leray 6 Sep; ULLWMA 9 Sep & 3 Oct; T Canton 27-29 Sep; only reports away from T Massena & T Watertown where pairs resident.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: CV 4 Sep.
E. Wood-Pewee: last CCSP 29 Sep.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last CB 17 Sep.
Least Flycatcher: last FD 8 Sep.
E. Phoebe: last T Hammond 27 Oct.
Great Crested Flycatcher: last T Croghan 10 Sep.
E. Kingbird: last T Ellisburg 15 Sep.
N. Shrike: arr ULLWMA 11 Oct (JB), early; only 2 other reports.
WHITE-EYED VIREO (R6): FD 5 Oct (JB).
Yellow-throated Vireo: last T Canton 8 Sep.
Blue-headed Vireo: last FD 19 Oct.
Warbling Vireo: last CB 19 Sep.
Philadelphia Vireo: 19 reports of 26 individuals, more than usual; last ICNC 25 Sep.
Red-eyed Vireo: last FD 6 Oct.
Horned Lark: max 132 T Lawrence 11 Nov.
Tree Swallow: last WBSP 20 Oct.
Barn Swallow: last RRT 10 Sep.
House Wren: last WISP 8 Oct.
Winter Wren: migrants arr 10 T Croghan 10 Sep; last LWMA 24 Nov.
Sedge Wren: last FD 12 Oct.
Marsh Wren: last PRWMA 5 Oct.
Carolina Wren: T Lowellville 23 Sep; PRWMA 26 Sep; only reports.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: scarce outside Adirondacks before 21 Sep.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr T Canton 7 Sep; max 33 FD 11 Oct; last FD 3 Nov.
E. Bluebird: max 32 FD 3 Oct.
Veery: last T Canton 14 Sep.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: OEC 8 Sep; FD 27 & 28 Sep; GLR 1 Oct; only reports.
Swainson's Thrush: last FD 10 Oct.
Hermit Thrush: last BPWMA 24 Nov.
Wood Thrush: last 3 ICNC 25 Sep (EW), late.
Gray Catbird: RRT 9 Nov (JB); 2 KC 12 Nov (RB); late.
Brown Thrasher: last FD 10 Oct.
N. Mockingbird: max 3 FD 5 Sep, where 1 still present 25 Sep; last Sackets Harbor Battlefield 24 Oct.
Am. Pipit: last WHWMA 11 Nov; no reports of more than 3 ind.
Cedar Waxwing: max 90 FD 28 Sep; scarce after 4 Nov.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Snow Bunting: arr PtPen 21 Oct.
Ovenbird: last FD 2 Oct.
N. Waterthrush: last OEC 9 Sep.
Golden-winged Warbler: last 3 FD 7 Sep.
Blue-winged Warbler: last FD 8 Sep.
Black-and-white Warbler: last FD 28 Sep; only report after 14 Sep.
Tennessee Warbler: max 39 FD 6 Sep; last FD 11 Oct.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr StPt 10 Sep (AS); 5 FD between 28 Sep & 6 Oct (JB); last 2 WISP 8 Oct (BB).
Nashville Warbler: max 21 FD 6 Sep; last T Croghan 12 Oct.
Mourning Warbler: last OEC 10 Sep.
Com. Yellowthroat: last WBSP 14 Oct.
Am. Redstart: last FD 28 Sep.
Cape May Warbler: max 75+ FD 8 Sep; last FD 6 Oct.
N. Parula: max 5 FD 22 Sep; last CV 6 Oct.
Magnolia Warbler: max 24 FD 7 Sep; last CV & FD 6 Oct.
Bay-breasted Warbler: max 23 FD 8 Sep; last FD 2 Oct.
Blackburnian Warbler: max 12 FD 6 Sep; last T Ellisburg & T Lyme 17 Sep.
Yellow Warbler: last T Lyme & PRWMA 17 Sep.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last FD 28 Sep; one of only 2 reports after 11 Sep.
Blackpoll Warbler: max 9 FD 8 Sep; last FD 2 Oct; fewer than normal.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last FD 10 Oct.
Palm Warbler: last FD 12 Oct.
Pine Warbler: max 60 FD 3 Oct; last FD 16 Oct.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 120 FD 11 Oct; last migrants FD 8 Nov; 5 StPt 24 Nov & singles WBSP 25 & 29 Nov, likely overwintering.
Prairie Warbler: last FD 11 Sep.
Black-throated Green Warbler: max 21 FD 6 Sep; last FD 10 Oct.
Canada Warbler: last FD & OEC 8 Sep.
Wilson's Warbler: last FD 22 Sep.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: last 2 CB 4 Nov.
Am. Tree Sparrow: arr MM 28 Oct.
Chipping Sparrow: max 160 FD 3 Oct; last FD, T Croghan, & T Watertown 16 Oct.
Clay-colored Sparrow: last FD 3 Oct.
Field Sparrow: last FD 25 Oct.
Vesper Sparrow: last FD 1 Nov.
Savannah Sparrow: last FD 12 Oct.
NELSON'S SPARROW (R6): 2 FD 12 Oct (JB, photos!).
Fox Sparrow: arr RRt 30 Sep; last FD 29 Nov.
Song Sparrow: scarce after 8 Nov.
Lincoln's Sparrow: last FD 7 Nov (JB), late.
Swamp Sparrow: scarce after 15 Oct; last FD 30 Nov.
White-throated Sparrow: max 125 FD 11 Oct.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr FD 22 Sep; last 6 FD 20 Oct.
Dark-eyed Junco: StPt 10 Sep early; next FD 25 Sep, more typical arr date; max 120 FD 3 Nov.
Scarlet Tanager: last FD 10 Oct.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last T Canton 1 Oct.
Indigo Bunting: last 2 GLR 1 Oct.
Bobolink: last migrants heard over FD 12 Sep.
E. Meadowlark: singles FD 3, 10 & 11 Oct, only reports!
Rusty Blackbird: arr FD 9 Sep; max 720 FD 3 Nov; last PtPen 11 Nov.
Com. Grackle: max 1100 T Canton 6 Oct; few reports after Oct.
Brown-headed Cowbird: 3 reports RRt, where last 7 Oct; no other reports.
Orchard Oriole: last T Hammond 2 Sep (GS), rare fall.
Baltimore Oriole: last FD 5 Sep.
Pine Grosbeak: FD 3 & 7 Nov (JB), only reports.
Purple Finch: max 10 FD 2 Oct.
Red Crossbill: Beaver Lake 2 Sep; 6 Type 3 OEC 9-10 Sep (JC); flying over FD 29 Nov; only reports.
Pine Siskin: max 22 MM 28 Oct.

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REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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East coast weather in the first half of the fall was dominated by five hurricanes. The remnants of hurricane Harvey triggered light rain in Region 7 on 2 September; Irma brought only scattered showers 14 and 15 September. Less than a week later José brushed the New England coast before turning out to sea. Maria made a hard right turn into the Atlantic on 27 - 28 September and had, at most, limited influence on the Region's weather. However, Nate's rains lasted from 8 to 10 October and raised the Lake Champlain level 0.2 feet.

Region 7 rainfall totals reflect the fact that of the five hurricanes only Harvey and Nate hit the area. Two of the others missed the Region entirely, and Irma produced only scattered showers. Except for southern Essex County, which was only slightly below normal, precipitation was one to two inches lower than normal. November's totals were near normal except for southeastern Clinton and eastern Essex Counties where they were up to two inches below average.

Temperatures for September were from three to five degrees above normal. This continued into October when from 1-24 October they ran well above normal every day. Even with the return to near normal temperatures for the last week, overall the month was at least seven degrees warmer except in Essex County, which was only five to seven degrees warmer. Temperatures in November were one to three degrees cooler than normal except in northwest Hamilton and southeastern Franklin, which were three to five degrees cooler.

At the end of August the water level of Lake Champlain had been in a steady decline. This trend continued through the first three or four days of September. The next five days of rain, described by one observer as drippy days, briefly reversed this decline. However, after that momentary increase in lake level it dropped again, reaching 95.1" by 20 September. At this level Laurin's Pool, one of the two principle shorebird sites, had essentially dried up, leaving only a minimal muddy shore line. After that only one or two peeps at a time were seen. This may also account for the lack of a single sighting of either dowitcher this fall.

Fall in Region 7 produced two firsts and was particularly good for waterfowl, and, in an embarrassment of riches, **Pink-footed Goose** was recorded twice. The first, at the Malone Rec Park, was a first for all of Region 7. Two days later the second was found along the lake shore in Plattsburgh. The second Region 7 first was the presence for two days of two **Cave Swallows**. An unbanded **Common Shelduck**, its molt to basic plumage complete, remained in the area for one last sighting in September. A female **King Eider** was present for days at Crown Point in Essex County. Immature **Great Cormorant** was seen on two separate occasions flying south over the lake. The most notable

shorebird was a **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** that showed up on Labor Day. A Lake Champlain “pelagic” out of Vermont recorded **Parasitic Jaeger** and **Sabine’s Gull** that wandered into NY waters. Finally **Nelson’s Sparrow** was found at the Chazy Riverlands. Though most likely a migrant, it was seen at the spot where possible breeding of this bird was established during Atlas 2000.

CONTRIBUTORS

Pat Aitkin, Janet Allison, Sue Barth, Alan Belford, Brian Berg, Michael B. Burgess, Ron Bussian, Gary Chapin (GC), Ken Chaisson, Glen Chapman (GCh), Malinda Chapman, Joan Collins, Eric Damour, Charlotte Demers, Patrice Domaischel, Martin Frank, Ellie George, Larry Hall, Judith Heintz, Suzy Johnson, Matt Kelly, Maeve Kim, Bill Krueger, Gary Lee, Deborah Martin, Larry Master, Brian McAllister, Matthew Medler (MM), Alissa Milillo, Michael Moccio (MMo), Brian Morse, Paul Osenbaugh, Bill Percell, Riva Noll, John Pumilio, Stacy & Mark Robinson, Derek Rogers, Nancy Rogers, Dana Rohleder, Glenn Seeholzer, John Shea, Janet Stein, Allan Strong, John & Pat Thaxton, Nancy Tognan, Eileen Wheeler, Hollis White, Suzanne Winterberger.

ABBREVIATIONS

AHR – Angle Hill Rd; **AP** – Ausable Pt; **BC** – Belmont Center; **BG** – Bloomingdale Bog; **BRR** – Bull Rock Rd; **CMt** – Cascade Mountain; **CRE** – Cemetery Rd., ESSE; **CH** – Cumberland Head; **CP** – Crown Pt; **CZ** – Chazy; **CR** – Chazy Riverlands; **CP** – Crown Pt; **DBM** – DeBar Meadows; **ENL** – Eagles Nest Lodge; **EAW** – Eight Acre Wood; **Es** – Essex; **EC** – Essex County; **FB** – Ferd’s Bog; **FCM** – Fort Covington Marsh; **FMt** – Fredrica Mountain; **GBk** – Gilbert Brook Marina; **HC** – Hamilton County; **ILk** – Indian L; **KN** – Keene; **KB** – Kings Bay; **LA** – Lake Alice; **LC** – La Chute; **LCl** – Lake Clear; **LCo** – Lake Colby; **LCp** – Lake Champlain pelagic; **LP** – Lake Placid; **LTL** – Little Tupper Lake; **MM** – Maple Meadows; **MS** – MDM Speculator; **MRC** – Malone Rec Center; **MI** – Minerva; **MR** – Moffitt Rd; **MV** – Mountain View; **NP** – Noblewood P; **NLPT** – Northville Lake Placid Trail; **PU** – Peru; **PB** – Plattsburgh; **PBy** – Plattsburgh Bay; **PtF** – Point au Fer; **PtR** – Point Au Roche SP; **RLk** – Round L; **SB** – Sabattis Bog; **SC** – Sabattis Circle; **SR** – Sabattis Rd; **SPM** – Sand Pond Marsh; **SCK** – Scoomtion Creek; **SPo** – Shaw Pd; **TB** – Trombly Bay; **TL** – Tupper L; **WRS** – Webb Royce Swamp; **WC** – Wild Center; **WLS** – Willis Lake Swamp; **WI** – Willsboro; **WP** – Westport; **WMt** – Whiteface Mountain; **WM** – Wickham Marsh.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: 25 PR 5 Oct (BK); 20,000 CR 30 Sep (EG).

Ross’s Goose: MRC 4 Oct (JT); TB 12 Nov (SR); 2 MRC 11 Nov (EW).

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE: PBy 11 Nov (DR, MB); MRC 9 Nov (HW).

Greater White-fronted Goose: PCB 16 Oct (SR, ED); MRC 10 Nov (S&MR).

Brant: AP 1 Nov (AB); 2 CP 15 Nov (JS); 30 NP 7 Oct (GC).

Cackling Goose: 4 RP 26 Nov (S&MS, GC); 6 NP 23 Nov (SR).

Tundra Swan: 2 CP 12 Nov (S&MR).

Wood Duck: 2 WLS 12 Nov (KC).

Gadwall: 2 LCo 11 Nov (AB).

Am. Wigeon: 6 CP 8 Oct (SR).

Am. Black Duck: 182 CP 28 Nov (SR).

Blue-winged Teal: 3 CR 4 Sep (SR, GC).

N. Shoveler: CP 8 Oct (SR).

N. Pintail: 3 CP 28 Nov (SR).

Green-winged Teal: 6 CP 28 Nov (SR).

Canvasback: 3 KB 25 Nov (SR).

Redhead: CR 25 Oct (BK)
Ring-necked Duck: 4CP 18 Nov (SR).
Greater Scaup: 65 AP 6 Sep (SR).
Lesser Scaup: 46 AP 6 SEP (SR).
scaup sp: 3,000 AP 6 SEP (SR).
KING EIDER (R7): CP 14 Nov (SR)
Surf Scoter: 10 ILk 29 Oct (JT); PB 14 Nov (BP),
White-winged Scoter: ILk 29 Oct (JT); 25 PB 11 Nov (SR, ED).
Black Scoter: 6 RP 2 Nov (SR); 150 PH 29 Oct (SR).
Long-tailed Duck: ILk 29 Oct (JT); 15 PB 11 Nov (SR, ED).
Bufflehead: 65 NP 23 Nov (SR).
Com. Goldeneye: 22 PBy 14 Nov (BP).
Barrow's Goldeneye: Noblewood P, ESSE 4 Nov (AB); Washington 16 Nov (SR).
Hooded Merganser: 12 NP 23 Nov (SR).
Com. Merganser: 12 NP 9 Sep (GC).
Red-breasted Merganser: 3 AP 14 Oct (GC).
Ruddy Duck: WD 25 Nov (SR, GC).
Ring-necked Pheasant: 4 WRS 25 Oct (SR).
Ruffed Grouse: 2 SR 27 Nov (DM).
Wild Turkey: 2 BC 23 Sep (NR).
Red-throated Loon: PtR 20 Oct (BK).
Com. Loon: 147 AP 14 Oct (GC).
Pied-billed Grebe: 9 CR 25 Oct (BK).
Horned Grebe: 2 AP 14 Oct (GC).
Red-necked Grebe: 2 CP 18 Nov (BM).
Double-crested Cormorant: 1200 NP 4 Oct (SR).
GREAT CORMORANT: CH 17 Sep (BK); PtR 4 Oct (BK).
Am. Bittern: LTL 1 Oct (NT).
Great Blue Heron: 2 CP 28 Nov (SR).
Great Egret: CR 17 Sep (BK).
Green Heron: SCk 9 Sep (GC, SR); CP 8 Oct (SR).
Black-crowned Night-Heron: 5 SCK 9 Sep (GC, SR).
Black Vulture: CZ 25 Sep (BK); 11 MtD 4 Nov (SR).
Turkey Vulture: 14 CZ 25 Sep (BK).

HAWKS – LARIDS

OSPREY: CP 4 OCT (SR).
Bald Eagle: 2 LC 1 Oct (GC, SR).
N. Harrier: CP 30 Nov (GC).
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 3 MtD 4 Nov (SR).
Cooper's Hawk: CH 12 Nov (SJ).
N. Goshawk: NP 25 Sep (SR).
Red-shouldered Hawk: PtR 19 Sep (BK).
Broad-winged Hawk: WLS 2 Oct (KC).
Red-tailed Hawk: 34 MtD 4 Nov (SR).

Rough-legged Hawk: 3 CP 27 Nov (SR).
GOLDEN EAGLE (R7): 2 MtD 7 Nov (SR).
Virginia Rail: SB 1 Oct (PA).
Com. Gallinule: 6 FCM 24 Sep (JS); Co-FL, LC 1 Oct (GC).
Am. Coot: 5 LC 22 Oct (MC).
Sandhill Crane: 7 Nov.
Black-bellied Plover: 5 AP 26 Oct (SR).
Am. Golden-Plover: 2 AP 14 Oct (GC).
Semipalmated Plover: 4 CR 22 Sep (BK).
Spotted Sandpiper: WLS 16 Sep (KC).
Solitary Sandpiper: AP 6 Sep (AB).
Greater Yellowlegs: 2 AP 16 Oct (SR).
Lesser Yellowlegs: 2 CR 7 Sep (BK).
Stilt Sandpiper: 8 CR 6 Sep (BK).
Sanderling: CR 4 Sep (BK), CP 28 Sep (SR).
Dunlin: 5 AP 22 Oct (GC).
Baird's Sandpiper: NP 5 Sep (RB).
Least Sandpiper: CR 19 Sep (BK).
BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER: CR 4 Sep (BK).
Pectoral Sandpiper: 5 CR 4 Sep (GC, SR).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 2 CR 7 Sep (BK).
Am. Woodcock: 2 MI 8 Oct (JA).
Wilson's Snipe: CR 14 Sep (BK).
PARASITIC JAEGER (R7): Ip 10 Sep (SR); PH 21 Sep (AB), AP 15 Oct (GC).
SABINE'S GULL (R7): LCp 9 Sep (AS).
Bonaparte's Gull: 150 GB 12 Sep (BK).
Little Gull: 2 AP 14 Oct (GC).
Iceland Gull (Thayer's type): CH 17 Sep (BK).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 2 NP 9 SEP (GC); AP 14 Oct (GC).
Great Black-backed Gull: 10 Lap 11 Sep (AS).
Caspian Tern: 4 NP 4 Sep (GC); 2 AP 6 SEP (AB).
Black Tern: LCo 7 Sep (AB).
Com. Tern: 55 GB 12 Sep (BK).

PIGEONS - PARROTS

E. Screech-Owl: CP 12 Sep (SR), AP 14 Oct (GC).
Great Horned Owl: MFR 19 Sep (NO); PtF 26 Nov (GC, SR).
Barred Owl: EAW 18 Nov (GL).
Short-eared Owl: 20 & 22 Nov.
N. Saw-whet Owl: RQR 8 Oct (AB).
Com. Nighthawk: TI 7 Sep (GC).
E. Whip-poor-will: EC 19 Sep (GCh); 4 MFR 24 Sep (NO).
Chimney Swift: NP 4 Sep (MM).
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: EAW 21 Sep (GL).

Belted Kingfisher: MRC 10 Nov (AB).
Red-bellied Woodpecker: KB 22 Oct (GC).
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: BC 23 Sep (NR).
Black-backed Woodpecker: MV 20 Sep (JT).
N. Flicker: BMR 6 Sep (GS).
Pileated Woodpecker: 2 ILk 30 Nov (MMo).
Am. Kestrel: LC 16 Sep (AB).
Merlin: AP 14 Oct (GC); BRR 19 Nov (MC).
Peregrine Falcon: CR 6 SEP (BK).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: ILk 3 Sep (MMo); EC 6 Sep (SB).
E. Wood-Pewee: LCo 30 Sep (AB).
Willow Flycatcher: AP 6 Sep (AB).
Least Flycatcher: ILk 3 Sep (MMo).
E. Phoebe: 2 ILk 3 Sep (MMo).
Great Crested Flycatcher: CP 12 Sep (SR).
E. Kingbird: 2 SC 9 Sep (GC).
N. Shrike: WP 27 Nov (SR).
Yellow-throated Vireo: CRE 29 Sep (J&PT).
Blue-headed Vireo: 6 LCo 30 Sep (AB).
Warbling Vireo: NP 15 Sep (J&PT).
Philadelphia Vireo: AP 9 Sep (AB); WP 21 Sep (AB).
Red-eyed Vireo: BMR 6 Sep (GS); 20 AP 6 Sep (AB).
Gray Jay: 5 RLk 27 Oct (JC).
Blue Jay: 12 CP 12 Sep (SR).
Com. Raven: LC 1 Oct (GC, SR).
Horned Lark: 30 TI 27 Nov (SR).
Purple Martin: 2 NP 4 Sep (GC).
Tree Swallow: 10 SB 5 Sep (SR).
Bank Swallow: 3 NP 4 Sep (MM).
Cliff Swallow: 3 NP 4 Sep (DR).
CAVE SWALLOW: 2 CR 1 Nov (AB), 2 RPt 2 Nov (S&MR).
Barn Swallow: 25 SB 5 Sep (SR).
Boreal Chickadee: 11 SPM 28 Sep (JC); 10 SPo 19 Sep (PD).
Tufted Titmouse: 6 LC 1 Oct (GC, SR).
Red-breasted Nuthatch: 16 BMR 6 Sep (GS).
White-breasted Nuthatch: 4 LC 1 Oct (GC, SR).
House Wren: CP 12 Sep (SR).
Winter Wren: 2 BMR 6 Sep (GS).
Sedge Wren: CR 4 Sep (BK), Co-CF.
Marsh Wren: 2 AP 6 Sep (AB).
Carolina Wren: WC 1 Oct (SW); CH 26 Oct (NO).
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 15 LCo 30 Sep (AB).
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: CP 28 Nov (SR).
E. Bluebird: 3 PtR 25 Oct (BK).
Veery: 3 DBM 9 Sep (BB).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: LPil 21 Sep (AB); SB 1 Sep (SB).
Bicknell's Thrush: WMt 18 Sep (MK).
Swainson's Thrush: LPI 21 Sep (AB).
Hermit Thrush: 2 SPo 19 Sep (PD).
Wood Thrush: CP 2 Sep (MM).
Gray Catbird: 3 AP 6 Sep (AB).
Brown Thrasher: BRR 11 Sep (MC).
N. Mockingbird: WP 21 Nov (RB).
Am. Pipit: 3 CMt 30 Sep (JP).
Cedar Waxwing: 4 LC 4 Sep (AB).

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: CR 14 Nov (BP).
Snow Bunting: 7 NP 23 Nov (SR).
Ovenbird: ENL 21 Sep (MMA).
N. Waterthrush: NP 4 SEP (DR); FMT 15 Sep (RN).
Black-and-white Warbler: 2 NLPT 6 SEP (BM).
Tennessee Warbler: 4 LCo 30 Sep (AB).
Nashville Warbler: 3 LCo 30 Sep (AB).
Com. Yellowthroat: 3 LCo 30 Sep (AB).
Am. Redstart: MS 30 Sep (AM).
Cape May Warbler: ILk 3 Sep (MMo); HC29 Sep (LH).
N. Parula: ENL 21 Sep (MMo).
Magnolia Warbler: 4 LCo 30 Sep (AB).
Bay-breasted Warbler: NLPT 6 Sep (BM).
Blackburnian Warbler: MS 30 Sep (AM).
Yellow Warbler: AP 6 Sep (AB).
Chestnut-sided Warbler: MM 13 Sep (SR).
Blackpoll Warbler: MS 30 Sep (AM); WP 21 Sep (AB).
Black-throated Blue Warbler: LCo 30 Sep (AB).
Palm Warbler: 18 BMR 6 Sep (GS), LCo 9 Oct (AB).
Pine Warbler: LCo 30 Sep (AB).
Yellow-rumped Warbler: 30 LCo 30 Sep (AB).
Black-throated Green Warbler: MS 30 Sep (AM).
Canada Warbler: ILk 3 Sep (MMo).
Wilson's Warbler: SCK 9 Sep (GC, SR).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: WRS 10 Oct (SR).
Am. Tree Sparrow: 6 LC 15 Nov (AB).
Chipping Sparrow: CRE 10 Oct J&PT).
Field Sparrow: BC 3 Oct (NR).
Savannah Sparrow: 3 AHR 25 Oct (SR); 2 CR 1 Nov (AB).
NELSON'S SPARROW (R7): CR 22 Oct (GC).

Fox Sparrow: ILk 21 Nov (MMo).
Lincoln's Sparrow: SB 11 Oct (JC).
Swamp Sparrow: LCo 11 Oct (AB).
White-throated Sparrow: 2 CP 28 Nov (SR).
White-crowned Sparrow: 2 CRE 10 Oct (J&PT).
Scarlet Tanager: NLPT 6 Sep (BM).
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: CP 12 Sep (SR).
Bobolink: 45 CR 6 Sep (AB).
E. Meadowlark: LCo 9 9 Oct (AB).

Rusty Blackbird: 40 AP 14 Oct (GC).
Brown-headed Cowbird: EC 20 Nov (CD).
Purple Finch: 3 LC 4 Sep (AB).
Red Crossbill: 26 SPo 19 Sep (PD).
White-winged Crossbill: 2 SRd 27 Nov (JC).
Pine Siskin: 45 LCo 11 Nov (AB).

EXOTICS

COMMON SHELDUCK: CR 6 Sep (BK).



REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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September 2017 was warmer and a bit drier than normal. The second half of the month featured a three-day heat wave, with 90°F+ on the 24th-26th and twelve days above 80° from 15 September onward. October was a remarkable 8.1° above average at Albany and produced nearly an inch below normal rainfall. Fourteen days were at least ten degrees higher than normal. November returned to near normal temperatures but was very dry, with less than an inch of rainfall for the month.

Lindsey Duval found a Greater White-fronted Goose at Hudson Crossing Park in Saratoga County in mid-October. It stayed in the area for a week before moving on. Snow Geese appeared in small numbers throughout the Region. Cackling Goose was reported in several spots around Saratoga and Washington Counties in the latter half of October. A female Canvasback was seen at Saratoga Lake for about a month, the only report of the species during the period. A pair of Redheads spent a few weeks at Loughberry Lake, Saratoga County, and as many as four were reported from Copake Lake, Columbia County. This represents the typical scarcity of these two *Aythya* ducks in the Region. Gary Chapin and Stacy Robinson discovered a male Harlequin Duck at the south end of Saratoga Lake on 18 November. It was only the second well-documented sighting in the Upper Hudson Valley in recent years. The bird stayed in that part of the lake until at least 23 November but was not reported after that date. Scoter numbers seemed a bit better than in recent years, and Long-tailed Duck was seen in above-average numbers as well. A few reports of Red-throated Loon were received during the period from the usual locations such as Lake George, the Great Sacandaga, and Saratoga Lake. Horned Grebe numbers were good. Red-necked Grebes were scarce, however.

On 14 November, a Cattle Egret was discovered by Pete Doherty at a farm property near Canajoharie in Montgomery County. A few observers were able to relocate the bird the following day. It was frequenting a drainage ditch along the

roadside at the farm. This was apparently the first report of the species in the Region since 2004.

Observations of later-migrating shorebirds included at least four reports of Black-bellied Plover. Tom Schmidt located eight American Golden-Plover in a farm field in Sammonsville, Fulton County. Three reports of Sanderling were noted, including a group of five along the Mohawk River in Montgomery County on 1 November.

A first-cycle Laughing Gull was observed resting on a dock at Brown's Beach, Saratoga Lake by Lindsey Duval on 30 October. I went to view the bird and found a second, adult Laughing Gull present among the resting gulls. Laughing Gull is rarely seen away from the coast, so to have two this far inland was quite unusual.

Rich Guthrie photographed a very late male Ruby-throated Hummingbird in his yard in Greene County on 25 October. A young Red-headed Woodpecker was observed by Marian Sole in Ancram, Columbia County, for two days in mid-September. Katie Bird had a singing and calling White-eyed Vireo in Cropseyville, Rensselaer County on 16 September.

Bob Yunick submitted his field notes for the fall season, excerpts follow:

FIELD NOTES – FALL – SEPTEMBER 1-NOVEMBER 30, 2017 – Robert P. Yunick

The following are observations from my feeding/banding operations in the Schenectady, NY area: 1) feeder in my yard (yard) at Schenectady; 2) my Adirondack feeding/banding operation at Jenny Lake (JL) at 1250 ft elevation near Corinth in northern Saratoga Co, NY... Highlights:

1) The mass exodus of feeder birds at JL was extremely disappointing. It began in August, intensified in September and the place became a vast wasteland in October-November. I conducted 3 banding sessions using 5 ½ mist nets at or near the feeders in September on the 2nd, 9th and 17th totaling 64.7 net-hrs banding 5 new birds for an awful yield of 0.077 birds/n-hr. But, it worsened come October and November, when on 10/19 I did not open nets because of the lack of birds at or nearby the feeders. But worse yet, three banding sessions on 10/26, 11/14, and 11/24 using 2 ½ nets, one at each of the 3 feeders, for a total of 21.9 n-hrs produced not only zero captures, but zero sightings as well!!

In part, some blame may be attributed to one of the, if not **the**, greatest fall of cones from white pines at JL since my tenure there beginning in 1970. The green cones were somewhat masked by the green needles in July and August; but as they ripened and turned brown in September their super abundance became apparent especially by 9/29 as they clung in great brown bunches. Then they began to fall, many on the ground by 10/19, even more by 10/26 and thereafter. On average they were smaller in size, 3-4 in. in length, compared to less numerous crops of larger cones up to 7-8 in. in length in other years. A tree can supply a finite amount of energy for cone production, and when the number of cones increases greatly as it did this year, cone size decreases.

These cones were heavily endowed with sticky resinous pitch that adhered to boot bottoms causing boots to collect leaves and needles, tracking them everywhere, making a mess inside. These cones will greatly aid reproduction next spring of a bumper crop of woodland mice and voles to the benefit of forest raptors.

While the cone abundance can explain the lack of chickadees and nuthatches at the feeders, it does not explain the disappearance of woodpeckers and some other species. Sunflower seed consumption mirrored the lack of birds present. It dropped steadily and sharply in August from ~400 g/day to under 200 g/day and bottomed out on 11/14 at 7 g/day. A year ago, when a chickadee irruption was in the making, the August low was ~200 g/day rising to ~750 g/day by late November, a far cry from this year's 7 g/day.

2) The Ruby-throated Hummingbird season at JL was also disappointing. The last hummer banded was an HY/F on 9/4; repeated trapping on 9/8, 9/15, and 9/22 produced no captures; the last one seen was on 9/10. The season total was 41 banded (only 4 HYs) and 10 return captures for a total of 51. The last lower total was 47 in 2012, then in the 30s and 40s in 1992-98. Sugar water consumption told an even bleaker story. Only 4249 g of sugar water was consumed April-September, compared to a peak of 30,495 g in 2003, and was the lowest since the 1990s. The last hummer I banded was on 9/13 at Albany Pine Bush Preserve in Albany Co.

211 species were reported during the period.

CONTRIBUTORS

Larry Alden, Will Aubrey, Ramona Bearor, Susan Beaudoin, Katie Bird, Mike Birmingham, Matt Brunelle, Nancy Castillo, Gary Chapin, Glen & Malinda Chapman, Steve Chorvas, Jeremy Collison, Bill Cook, Andrea Denton, Alan Devoe Bird Club recent sightings, Amanda Dillon, Pete Doherty, Craig Driggs, Bruce Dudek, Alan Dupuis, Lindsey Duval, Larry Federman, Peter Feinberg, Debra Ferguson, Mark Fitzsimmons, Brianna Gary, Bernie & Chris Grossman, Rich Guthrie, HMBirds Yahoo Group, Larry & Barbara Hall, David Harrison, Ron Harrower, John Hershey, John Kent, Nancy Kern, Bill Lee, Naomi Lloyd, Tristan Lowery, Larry Main, Alan Mapes, Leigh McBride, Thom McClenahan, Mike McGraw, Steve Mesick, Joyce Miller, Frank Mitchell, Frank Murphy, Jenny Murtaugh, Ellen Pemrick, Will Raup, Gregg Recer, Neal Reilly, Stacy Robinson, John Roosenberg, Jeanette Roundy, Lydia Schereen, Tom Schmidt, Kathy Schneider, Zach Schwartz-Weinstein, Marian Sole, George Steele, Scott Stoner, Craig Thompson, Alison Van Keuren, Phil Whitney, Tom & Colleen Williams, Donna Wright, Will Yandik, Robert Yunick.

ABBREVIATIONS

APBP – Albany Pine Bush Preserve, ALBA; **AR** – Alcove Res, ALBA; **BCM** – Black Creek Marsh, ALBA; **BCR** – Basic Creek Res, ALBA; **BMB** – Bog Meadow Brook Nature Trail, SARA; **CCGP** – Cossackie Creek Grasslands Preserve, GREE; **CF** – Cohoes Flats, ALBA; **CL** – Collins L, SCHE; **CRM** – Cline Rd. Marsh, FULT; **FR** – Five Rivers EEC, ALBA; **FtEG** – Ft. Edward Grasslands, WASH; **FV** – Franklinton Vlaie, SCHO; **HP** – Huyck Preserve, ALBA; **OCA** – Ooms Conservation Area, COLU; **PRWMA** – Partridge Run WMA, ALBA; **SNHP** – Saratoga National Historical P, SARA; **TR** – Tomhannock Res, RENN; **VFNHP** – Vischer Ferry Nature & Historic Preserve, SARA; **WMP** – Wilson M. Powell Wildlife Sanctuary, COLU.

WATERFOWL - VULTURES

Snow Goose: max 400 nr Greenwich WASH
11 Nov.

Greater White-fronted Goose: Hudson
Crossing Pk SARA 14 Oct.

Brant: max 65 Bob & Betty Cummings Memorial Pk WASH 3 Nov.
Mute Swan: max 7 Hoosic River Access Site RENS 30 Oct.
Wood Duck: max 75 VFNHP 21 Sep.
Blue-winged Teal: max 20 Lockrow Rd RENS 4 Oct.
N. Shoveler: max 20 Stanton Pd ALBA 28 Oct.
Gadwall: max 40 Stanton Pd ALBA 25 Nov.
Am. Wigeon: max 238 Stanton Pd ALBA 17 Oct.
Am. Black Duck: max 100 Saratoga L SARA 19 Nov.
N. Pintail: max 22 Bob & Betty Cummings Memorial Pk WASH 5 Nov.
Green-winged Teal: max 200 VFNHP 17 Nov.
Canvasback: Saratoga L SARA 20 Oct, 21 Nov, only reports.
Redhead: max 4 Copake L COLU 3 Nov.
Ring-necked Duck: max 900 Loughberry L SARA 21 Nov.
Greater Scaup: max 24 Loughberry L SARA 31 Oct.
Lesser Scaup: max 90 Loughberry L SARA 21 Nov.
HARLEQUIN DUCK (R8): Saratoga L SARA 18 Nov- 23 Nov (GaC & SR), *intro*.
Surf Scoter: max 7 AR 27 Oct.
White-winged Scoter: max 37 Bob & Betty Cummings Memorial Pk WASH 12 Oct.
Black Scoter: max 65 AR 27 Oct.
Long-tailed Duck: max 75 Saratoga L SARA 19 Nov.
Bufflehead: max 107 Saratoga L SARA 21 Nov.
Com. Goldeneye: max 300 Saratoga L SARA 23 Nov.
Barrow's Goldeneye: drake, Bob & Betty Cummings Memorial Pk WASH 16 Nov.
Hooded Merganser: max 200 BCR 14 Nov.
Com. Merganser: max 320 BCR 13 Nov.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 6 Saratoga L SARA 4 Nov.
Ruddy Duck: max 572 BCR 22 Oct.
Wild Turkey: max 46 SNHP 24 Nov.
Red-throated Loon: max 6 Bob & Betty Cummings Memorial Pk WASH 29 Oct.
Horned Grebe: max 18 Saratoga L SARA 21 Nov.
Red-necked Grebe: max 3 Saratoga L SARA 26 Oct
Double-crested Cormorant: max 931 Bob & Betty Cummings Memorial Pk WASH 4 Nov, high count.
Am. Bittern: Warrick Rd WASH 23 Sep, only report.

Least Bittern: VFNHP 9 Sep, only report.
Great Egret: max 6 Stockport Flats COLU 7 Oct.
CATTLE EGRET (R8): Maring Rd, Canajoharie MONT 14 Nov (PD), *intro*.
Green Heron: last Hudson R COLU 13 Oct.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: Duane L SCHE 17 Sep, only report.

HAWKS – LARIDS

Black Vulture: max 71 Voorheesville ALBA 24 Nov.
Turkey Vulture: max 61 Cobleskill SCHO 22 Sep.
Osprey: last Burtonsville Bridge MONT 24 Nov, late.
Golden Eagle: arr Stillwater SARA 24 Oct.
N. Harrier: max 5 FtEG 28 Nov.
Bald Eagle: max 10 BCR 23 Nov.
Broad-winged Hawk: max 337 John Boyd Thacher SP hawkwatch ALBA 12 Sep.
Virginia Rail: max 5 BCM 30 Sep.
Sora: max 3 BCM 24 Sep.
Com. Gallinule: max 13 East Bay WMA WASH 14 Sep.
Am. Coot: max 11 BCR 5 Nov.
Black-bellied Plover: max 3 Vanderburgh Point FULT 10 Oct.
AM. GOLDEN-PLOVER (R8): 8 Sammonsville FULT 17 Sep (TS), *intro*.
Semipalmated Plover: max 5 CF 3 Oct.
Killdeer: max 50 CF 21 Sep.
Stilt Sandpiper: HP 5 Sep, only report.
Sanderling: max 5 Ft Hunter MONT 1 Nov.
Dunlin: max 14 Schoharie Crossing SHS MONT 2 Nov.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 8 CF 12 Oct.
Short-billed Dowitcher: 2 Falls View Park, Cohoes ALBA 15 Aug.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 5 Mayfield T Beach FULT 1 Sep.
LAUGHING GULL (R8): max 2 Saratoga L SARA 30 Oct (LD, TW), *intro*.
Iceland Gull: arr CF 19 Nov.

PIGEONS – PARROTS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Schodack I SP RENN 2 Sep, VFNHP 3 OCT.
Black-billed Cuckoo: max 3 North-South L Campground GREE 30 Sep.
Short-eared Owl: max 4 nr Hessville MONT 23 Nov.
Com. Nighthawk: max 45 Catskill GREE 3 Sep; last Slingerlands ALBA 16 Sep.
Chimney Swift: last 5 Fultonville MONT 13 Sep.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 7 John Boyd Thacher SP hawkwatch ALBA 9 Sep; last New Baltimore GREE 25 Oct, late.
Red-headed Woodpecker: Ancram COLU 15-16 Sep.
Am. Kestrel: max 11 FtEG 20 Nov.
Merlin: max 2 John Boyd Thacher SP ALBA 16 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: last Ancram COLU 11 Oct.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last 2 Saratoga Spa SP SARA 20 Sep.
Willow Flycatcher: last VFNHP 4 Sep.
Least Flycatcher: last Ancram COLU 21 Sep.
E. Phoebe: max 13 nr Hillsdale COLU 11 Sep.
Great Crested Flycatcher: last Sleepy Hollow L GREE 19 Sep.
E. Kingbird: last Livingston COLU 4 Sep.
N. Shrike: arr CCGP 5 Nov.
WHITE-EYED VIREO (R8): Cropseyville RENS 16 Sep (KB), *intro*.
Yellow-throated Vireo: last Chatham COLU 25 Sep.
Blue-headed Vireo: max 9 Schodack I SP RENS 12 Oct; last Rensselaerville SF ALBA 4 Nov.
Philadelphia Vireo: last Washington Pk ALBA 26 Sep.
Warbling Vireo: max 7 VFNHP 4 Sep; last Saratoga Spa SP SARA 28 Sep.
Red-eyed Vireo: last Fultonville MONT 17 Oct.
Fish Crow: max 70 Saratoga Springs SARA 11 Oct.
Horned Lark: max 26 Sharon SCHO 15 Nov.
Tree Swallow: last 20 TR 13 Nov.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 100 VFNHP 17 Sep; last 13 Lions Pk SCHE 15 Oct.
Bank Swallow: last 5 Bob & Betty Cummings Memorial Pk WASH 8 Sep.
Barn Swallow: last Athens GREE 10 Sep.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 12 Rensselaerville SF ALBA 19 Oct.
Brown Creeper: max 7 Berlin RENS 21 Oct.
House Wren: last Guilderland ALBA 18 Oct.
Marsh Wren: max 15 BCM 30 Sep.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last Schodack I SP RENS 13 Sep.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 35 Moreau L SP SARA 22 Oct.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 19 APBP 13 Oct.
E. Bluebird: max 25 FR 25 Oct.
Veery: last FR 24 Sep.
Gray-checked Thrush: last BMB 14 Oct.

Swainson's Thrush: last Corkscrew Rail Trail RENS 2 Nov.
Wood Thrush: last nr Guilderland ALBA 16 Oct.
Gray Catbird: max 26 VFNHP 23 Sep, FR 24 Sep.
Brown Thrasher: last FR 9 Oct.
Am. Pipit: max 42 Green Acres Farm COLU 27 Oct.
Cedar Waxwing: max 100 BCR 1 Nov.

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Snow Bunting: arr Cherry Plain SP RENS 4 Nov.
Ovenbird: last Hudson COLU 9 Oct.
Louisiana Waterthrush: last Saratoga Spa SP SARA 8 Sep, late.
N. Waterthrush: last Schodack I SP RENS 2 Sep.
Blue-winged Warbler: last Swyer Pres COLU 13 Sep.
Black-and-white Warbler: last Saratoga Spa SP SARA 7 Sep.
Tennessee Warbler: max 20 bird banding operations APBP 29 Sep, all-time high count; last bird banding operations APBP 11 Oct.
Orange-crowned Warbler: APBP 18 Sep; Saratoga Spa SP SARA 25 Sep; Gray's Crossing Creek Access SARA 30 Sep; Lk George Beach SP WARR 2 Oct.
Nashville Warbler: max 15 bird banding operations APBP 27 Sep; last APBP, VFNHP 5 Oct.
Connecticut Warbler: APBP 8 Sep, 19 Sep; Saratoga Spa SP SARA 20 Sep.
Mourning Warbler: last BMB 16 Sep.
Com. Yellowthroat: max 14 BCM 7 Sep; last BMB 22 Oct.
Am. Redstart: max 8 VFNHP 2 Sep; last FR 1 Oct.
Cape May Warbler: max 8 Galway L SARA 4 Sep; last Summit SCHO 2 Oct.
N. Parula: max 7 APBP 23 Sep; last Peebles I SP SARA 12 Oct.
Magnolia Warbler: max 12 VFNHP 23 Sep; last Pachaquack Pres COLU 14 Oct.
Bay-breasted Warbler: last Saratoga Spa SP SARA 4 Oct.
Blackburnian Warbler: last Chatham COLU 25 Sep.
Yellow Warbler: last Brunswick RENS 24 Sep.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last bird banding operations APBP 27 Sep.
Blackpoll Warbler: max 10 Saratoga Spa SP 22 Sep; last New Baltimore GREE 29 Oct, late.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: last North L SP GREE 10 Oct.

Palm Warbler: max 16 Keep Cons Pres COLU 5 Oct; last APBP 25 Oct.

Pine Warbler: max 9 Wilton Wildlife Pres SARA 22 Sep.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 54 BMB 14 Oct.

Prairie Warbler: last Queensbury WARR 17 Sep.

Black-throated Green Warbler: last APBP 13 Oct.

Canada Warbler: last APBP 22 Sep.

Wilson's Warbler: last Saratoga Spa SP SARA 28 Sep.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: max 26 Lions Pk SCHE 27 Nov.

Chipping Sparrow: 49 bird banding operations APBP 14 Oct, all-time high count; last Green Acres Farm COLU 9 Nov.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 52 Rensselaerville SF ALBA 4 Nov.

White-crowned Sparrow: max 7 Towpath Rd, Kingsbury WASH 15 Oct.

White-throated Sparrow: max 64 Towpath Rd, Kingsbury WASH 15 Oct.

Vesper Sparrow: max 2 Bob & Betty Cummings Memorial Pk WASH 12 Oct;

Towpath Rd, Kingsbury WASH 12 Oct; Green Acres Farm COLU 3 Nov.

Savannah Sparrow: max 68 Roeliff Jansen Pk COLU 23 Oct, high count.

Song Sparrow: max 40 Roeliff Jansen Pk COLU 25 Oct.

Lincoln's Sparrow: max 3 Livingston COLU 23 Oct; BCM 30 Sep.

Swamp Sparrow: max 50 BCM 30 Sep.

E. Towhee: max 10 FR 7 Oct; last FR 28 Oct.

Scarlet Tanager: last 2 W. Ft Ann WASH 3 Oct.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last T Providence SARA 2 Oct.

Indigo Bunting: max 10 Saratoga Spa SP SARA 1 Sep; last 5 Saratoga Spa SP SARA 10 Oct.

Bobolink: max 20 Green Acres Farm COLU 1 Sep; last Green Acres Farm COLU 27 Sep.

E. Meadowlark: max 14 Ft Plain MONT 7 Oct.

Rusty Blackbird: 40 Ballston L SARA 5 Nov; 28 BMB 22 Oct; 11 Towpath Rd, Kingsbury WASH 15 Oct.

Com. Redpoll: nr Guilderland ALBA 3 Nov, only report.

Red Crossbill: max 35 Rensselaerville SF ALBA 28 Oct

Pine Siskin: max 30 Berlin RENS 21 Oct.

Evening Grosbeak: Berlin RENS 21 Oct, only report.



REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

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September was warm and dry. Average temperature was 2.4°F above normal thanks to highs of 90° and 91° on 24 and 25 September. Precipitation was just 1.75", whereas the normal is 4.28". October was extremely warm. Nineteen days had highs of 70° or more. The month came in 7.5° warmer than normal. Not surprisingly, many species of warblers lingered to mid-month. Precipitation was 3.87" for Poughkeepsie but over 5" for White Plains, helped out by a coastal storm that intensified off the mid-Atlantic coast and fed by Tropical Storm Philippe off Florida. It brought heavy rains with tropical force gusts to the area on 29 October. Rain totals of 2.7-3.8" were typical. This relieved the drought level for the year. White Plains accumulated 4.62" from the storm. November

saw near normal temperatures but only received less than half of its normal 4" of precipitation.

A few Greater White-fronted and Cackling Geese were reported, suggesting that their numbers are increasing. A tagged **Whooper Swan** was found in Cornwall on 25 November.

The area hawk watches saw disappointing numbers for Broad-winged Hawks. There was an early push from 10-13 September, but remarkably each of the three watches had peaks on different days. Even the normal push a week later varied by hawk watch. Mt. Peter saw two peaks with 1140 on 17th and 1764 on the 21st. Chestnut Ridge saw no peak the third week of September, but Hook Mountain had 3164 on 22 September. Chestnut Ridge did have a banner year for Red-shouldered Hawks with counts over 100 on 4 and 8 November.

The Black-headed Gull returned to its winter haunt in Five Island Park on 25 November, but not before entertaining Bronx birders in nearby Pelham Bay Park.

A **Say's Phoebe** was discovered by Maria Loukeris off Oil City Road on 21 October. The bird was seen on Liberty Lane, across the street from the platform on Oil City Road. It was found in the late morning, but the ID was made in late afternoon and then reported. Several birders looked for it after that with no luck. It was not seen the next day.

Other notable birds include: Sandhill Crane, Long-billed Dowitcher, Northern Shrike, Blue Grosbeak, and Dickcissel.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CPP – Croton Pt P; **EGR** – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; **MC** – Marshlands Conservancy; **RNC** – Rye Nature Center; **SGNWR** – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR.

WATERFOWL - VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: Ryder P 3,6,7 Oct (DK, AL, JMcB), ph; Stone Barns Center, Tarrytown 3 Nov (VH); Amenia 3 Nov; Rockefeller SP Preserve 4, 20 Nov (VH,EG); 4 Tamarack L 5 Nov; Hunns Lake 24-26 Nov (VH,DK); Portchester Middle School 30 Nov (GB,TB).

Snow Goose: blue form Ryder P 7 Oct (AL, JMcB), ph

Brant: arr 12 EGR 4 Oct

Cackling Goose: Amenia 22 Oct, 3 Nov (CP, HT); 4 Tamarack L 5 Nov; Black Dirt Region 4, 21-25, 28 Nov (MF); Bronxville L 10 Nov (SC); Blue Chip Farm 13, 16-26 Nov (JH, CS, KMcD); Hamptonburgh 18 Nov (JH); Hunns Lake 25 Nov (DK); Warwick 26 Nov (KW).

WHOOPEE SWAN: Cornwall 25 Nov (StRa), tagged 8225, escape?

Canvasback: arr 1 CPP 22 Oct.

Surf Scoter: 4 EGR 22 Nov.

White-winged Scoter: 1-3 EGR 6 Oct, 1, 6, 14, 19, 22 Nov; 2-4 Ashokan Res 4, 6 Nov; 10 EGR 16 Nov; Tomahawk L, Washingtonville 24 Nov.

Black Scoter: EGR 30 Oct; 2-5 Ashokan Res 4, 6, 19 Nov; 2 EGR 6 Nov.

Long-tailed Duck: 2 EGR 30 Oct; Sylvan L 3 Nov; 20 Ashokan Res 4 Nov; 4 Abels Pond 6 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: Sylvan L 16 Oct (DK), unusual location.

Ring-necked Pheasant: 2 Galeville 16 Nov, likely released; A few reports from SULL and DUTC.

Ruffed Grouse: Stanfordville Wildlife Preserve 28 Sep.

Red-throated Loon: max 116 EGR 16 Nov (TB).

Horned Grebe: 38 Ashokan Res 23 Nov (PS).

Red-necked Grebe: Roundout Res 7 Nov; Neversink Res 11 Nov.

N. Gannet: EGR 25 Oct; 34 EGR 16 Nov; 11 EGR 22 Nov.

Great Cormorant: DeVries P, Sleepy Hollow 16 Sep (EG), early.

Snowy Egret: New Hamburg 22 Sep; 2 New Hamburg 5 Oct; Kingston Pt 8 Oct - 1 Nov; Rhinebeck 10 Nov.

Glossy Ibis: Citco Pond, Goshen 1-9, 19-20 Sep (KM, MZ).

HAWKS - LARIDS

Osprey: last Wappinger Lake 25 Nov.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 200 Hook Mt 22 Sep.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 27 Mt Peter 4 Nov; 167 Chestnut Ridge 4 Nov; 22 Hook Mt 7 Nov; 105 Chestnut Ridge 8 Nov.

Broad-winged Hawk: 459 Chestnut Ridge 10 Sep; 839 Hook Mt 11 Sep; 922 Mt Peter 13 Sep; 1140 Mt Peter 17 Sep; 1764 Mt Peter 21 Sep; 3164 Hook Mt 22 Sep.

Rough-legged Hawk: Rockefeller SP 29 Oct; CPP 12 Oct.

Golden Eagle: 2 Black Dirt Region 5 Nov.

Clapper Rail: 3 MC 26 Sep, 6, 14 Oct; 2 MC 2 Nov.

Sora: MC 1, 3 Oct.

C. Gallinule: Round Pond 5 Oct.

Sandhill Crane: Rockefeller SP 16 Nov (VH).

Am. Oystercatcher: 2 EGR 6 Sep.

Am. Golden-Plover: 3-4 Hurley 1-3 Sep; 4 Pine I 3 Sep; 10 Morningside P 4 Sep; 12 Hurley 5 Sep (DO); 2 Black Dirt Region 4 Nov.

Semipalmated Plover: Strever Farm 1, 2 Sep, 7 Oct; Great Vly 21 Oct; Piermont Pier 20, 21, 24, 26 Oct.

Ruddy Turnstone: EGR 27 Oct.

Sanderling: Morningside P 1-3 Sep.

Dunlin: Saugerties 15, 24 Sep; 1-3 MC 16, 22, 23, 26 Oct, 1 Nov; Kingston Pt 11 Nov.

Purple Sandpiper: 3-4 EGR 23, 29 Nov.

Baird's Sandpiper: Nannahagan Park in Pleasantville 2 Sep; Pine I 3 Sep; Morningside P 26 Sep, 6 Oct.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: max 5 Skinner's Lane 8 Sep.

Pectoral Sandpiper: 9 Saugerties 16 Sep; 8 Saugerties 15 Oct;

Long-billed Dowitcher: Wallkill R NWR 15, 27 Oct (StRo), ph.

Bonaparte's Gull: Ashokan Res 21 Oct; EGR 30 Oct; Strauss Marsh 31 Oct; Neversink Res 1 Nov; 7 Ashokan Res 4 Nov.

Black-headed Gull: Five Island P 25 Nov (TG, JR).

Laughing Gull: 150 EGR 16 Nov (GB), large number for so late in the season.

Iceland Gull: EGR 28 Nov.

Glaucous Gull: Kingston 15 Nov.

Com. Tern: Morningside P 4, 5 Sep.

Forster's Tern: Morningside P 4-5 Sep (JF, SB); 2 MC 4, 11 Sep.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Barn Owl: Mohonk 27 Sep.

Snowy Owl: Ulster 15 Nov (JCI).

Short-eared Owl: arr SGNWR 16 Nov; 4 SGNWR 26 Nov.

N. Saw-whet Owl: 1-2 Woodstock 17, 21 Oct, 19 Nov; Willow 16-18 Oct; Kenneth Wilson Campground 21 Oct; 3 Ellenville 14 Nov.

Com. Nighthawk: 80 MC 1 Sep; 101 Wawarsing 4 Sep; 87 Dover 15 Sep.

E. Whip-poor-will: Rochester 18 Sep.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Hartsdale 16 Oct.

Red-headed Woodpecker: max 9 Weston Rd Marsh 17 Sep.

Monk Parakeet: 10 Larchmont 3 Nov; 3 New Rochelle 13 Nov; 3 Nyack 28 Nov.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: MC 2 Sep; Hurley 3 Sep; 3 Bashakill 8 Sep; Minnewaska 12 Sep.

Least Flycatcher: Red Wing Recreation Park 29, 30 Nov (MSo, DK), calling, video.

SAY'S PHOEBE: Oil City Rd 21 Oct (MLO).

N. Shrike: SGNWR 25-26 Nov (MG, MD); Galeville P 26 Nov (KeMcD).

Philadelphia Vireo: Depot Hill 4 Sep; Kingston 8 Sep; Bashakill 9, 21 Sep; Rochester 10 Sep; 2 Saugerties 12 Sep, 16 Oct; MC 13 Sep; 2 Minnewaska 12, 14 Sep; .

Tree Swallow: lingered PP thru 7 Nov.

Marsh Wren: 1-2 MC 1, 12, 26 Sep; 3 MC 1 Oct, 1 Nov.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: CPP 28 Oct.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Bashakill 1 Sep (SB), early.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Nuclear L 20 Sep; Buttercup Sanc West 26 Oct; Pocatico L 9 Nov.

Wood Thrush: Hunt-Parker Sanctuary 2 Nov (TJ).

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Snow Bunting: 16 EGR 2 Nov; 14 EGR 18, 21 Nov

Orange-crowned Warbler: Esopus 30 Sep; MC 11, 12 Oct, 2, 4, 6, 7 Nov; EGR 8, 9, 19 Nov; Cross R Res 16 Nov.

Connecticut Warbler: Bashakill 9, 25 Sep (JH, SB); Wallkill R NWR 12, 15, 16 Sep (RS, LS, GB); Peach Hill P 16 Sep (MR); Steward SF 28 Sep (AL).

N. Parula: Kingston Pt 6 Nov.

Bay-breasted Warbler: last Hillview Res 6 Oct (SC)

Palm Warbler: 1-2 MC 12-14, 17 Sep (JS, GB, TB), early.

Pine Warbler: CPP 25 Nov.

Wilson's Warbler: CPP 22 Nov (J&SF).

Yellow-breasted Chat: Wallkill R NWR 7 Sep (LS, MLo); CPP 24, 25 Oct (TJ).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: 2 Town of Ulster 18 Sep; MC 21 Oct; CPP 23, 24 Nov.

Vesper Sparrow: 2 Pine Plains 5 Sep; Stony Kill 9 Sep; Ulster 18 Sep, 22, 28 Oct; Marbletown 18 Oct; 2 Bashakill 17 Oct; EGR 23 Oct.

"Ipswich" Sparrow: CPP 24 Nov (PH).

Grasshopper Sparrow: 2 Greig Farm 16 Sep.

Nelson's Sparrow: Wallkill R NWR 2 Oct; max 4 MC 20 Oct; 1-3 MC 1 Oct -1 Nov.

Saltmarsh Sparrow: MC 14 Oct.

Lincoln's Sparrow: Depot Hill 4 Sep (CP), early; max 5 Stonykill 26 Sep.

White-crowned Sparrow: arrived Rockefeller SP 12 Sep (MSt), early; Depot Hill 21 Sep.

Blue Grosbeak: 2 Rockefeller SP Preserve 2 Sep (MSt), ph; Scarsdale 21 Oct (SMo).

Dickcissel: Marbletown 8 Sep (PS); CPP 5 Oct; MC 11 Oct (GB).

Bobolink: last Marbletown 14 Oct.

Pine Siskin: 2 Bashakill 7 Nov.

EXOTICS

Chukar: Galeville 16 Nov (KeMcD).

Mandarin Duck: Six and a Half Station Rd. Sanctuary 16, 20 Nov (KA).

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REGION 10 - MARINE

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The fall season was once again warm and dry. Temperatures in September were roughly 2.5-3.5°F above normal, ranging from an average of 68.9° at Islip to 70.5° at Central Park. 2" of rain fell at Central Park in September, a deficit of 2.28", but rainfall was close to normal at Islip, 3.99", 0.41" above normal. October was extremely warm across the Region. The average temperature at Central Park was 64.1°, 7.2° above normal. The temperature anomaly was even greater at Islip—7.6° above normal. The average temperature is 61.9°. Total rainfall for the month of October was near or above normal, but almost all of the rain fell at the end of the month. Monthly totals ranged from 4.18" in Central Park, 0.22" below normal, to 6.67" at Islip, 2.88" above normal. This included 3.19" at Central Park and 4.02" at Islip during a deluge on 29-30 October. November continued dry, but temperatures were near normal. For example, rainfall at Islip was 1.80", 1.5" below normal, and the average temperature was 45.4°, 0.3° above normal. Tropical Storm José passed well southeast of Long Island on 19-20 September, with little to show bird-wise.

It was a decent season at the Fire Island Hawk Watch. Despite weather conditions that did not produce a good flight day throughout almost the entire month of October, a total of 3248 hawks were recorded, 2.5% below the average of the previous 20 years. 21 and 22 September were the big days with 429 and 782 hawks, respectively. Among the bright spots were the counts of Osprey (836) and Bald Eagle (12), both all-time highs. The 712 American Kestrels counted was 17% below the 20-year average, a modest increase after four years of record low counts. Numbers of Cooper's Hawks (49) and Peregrines (216) were 38% and 14% above the 20-year averages, respectively. The season's results included a Red-shouldered Hawk on 10 November and a Rough-legged Hawk on 11 November. Unfortunately, Sharp-shinned Hawks were at an all-time low. Only 92 birds were counted, 73% below the 20-year average. It was another bad year for Northern Harrier. 146 birds were counted, 36% below the 20-year average. Investigation is warranted as to the causes.

An abundance of late-season records of neotropical migrants was one of the season's notable phenomena and may reflect phenological changes in migration patterns caused by warm fall weather and underlying climate change. For example, at least 16 species of warblers were recorded in Central Park on 30 September and 15 species on 6 October. As the season progressed, a number of observers noted species present past their normal departure dates. For example, on 6 November at Robert Moses State Park, Suffolk County, the following late migrants were noted by one observer: two White-eyed Vireos, two Northern Parulas, Indigo Bunting, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. There are many other

examples of species lingering well into November. Remarkably, at least 15 species of warblers were still being reported in the Region in the last week of November, including Prothonotary, Black-and-white, Northern Parula, Blackpoll, Magnolia, Black-throated Green, Canada, and Wilson's, and more expected late-season species such as Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Nashville, Common Yellowthroat, Palm, and Pine.

Consistent with the changing climate, peak abundance of migratory waterfowl has shifted beyond the end of the fall season. Observed waterfowl numbers generally reflect this change. With the exception of several species of sea ducks, seasonal maxima were modest or low. A nice concentration of migratory waterfowl once again occurred on the East Pond at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, including the seasonal maxima for eight species.

It was the sparsest fall season for irruptive winter finches in the author's memory. There were only four reports of Pine Siskin, with a maximum of two, and approximately 15 reports of Purple Finch. The maximum of American Goldfinches was a paltry 72.

In a season full of great rarities, certainly the most outstanding was a Corn Crane, found along the side of the Ocean Parkway at Cedar Beach, Town of Babylon, Suffolk County by Ken and Suzy Feustel. The bird was found on 7 November and stayed in this unlikely spot through the 8th, affording many birders the opportunity for extended looks at this normally secretive species. Unfortunately, birders arriving on the morning of 9 November found the bird dead. The specimen was delivered to the American Museum of Natural History, where it was concluded that the bird had been struck by a car. See articles and photos elsewhere in this issue.

Pink-footed, Ross's, and Barnacle Geese were all seen in the Region in the second half of November. A Pacific Loon was spotted at Montauk Point on 12 November. A Northern Fulmar, extremely rare from shore, was seen at Robert Moses State Park on 15 November. An extremely obliging adult Brown Booby stayed around Lake Montauk from 27 September to 5 November. There were two American White Pelicans, one at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge on 29-30 September and the other at Jones Beach West End on 11 November. Also on 11 November, a juvenile Golden Eagle was seen in Southampton, Suffolk County. Three Sandhill Cranes were fly-overs at St. George, Staten Island on 8 November. A Franklin's Gull was seen at Miller Field, Staten Island on 13 September. A Bridled Tern was present at Great Gull Island, Suffolk County from 2-5 September. Photos were obtained. An immature male Calliope Hummingbird was a spectacular visitor at a feeder in Baiting Hollow, Suffolk County on 1 October.

A Hammond's Flycatcher, only New York's third record, was a very popular bird in Central Park from 26 November through the end of the season. Initially spotted by Linda LaBella, the challenging identification was confirmed through the power of digital technology and significant input from many birders. Other rare flycatchers in the Region included a Say's Phoebe at Hecksher State

Park, Suffolk County on 8 November and an Ash-throated Flycatcher at Mt. Loretto Unique Area, Staten Island on 23 November. There was a lone Cave Swallow report, at Breezy Point, Queens on 24 November. A Townsend's Solitaire showed up at the Suffolk County Farm in Yaphank, Suffolk County on 26 November, joining a couple of other good birds—a Prothonotary Warbler and a Clay-colored Sparrow—at this under-birded and intriguing location.

Brent Bomkamp discovered a Lark Bunting at Robert Moses State Park on 28 September, and it stayed to the 29th. A LeConte's Sparrow was seen and photographed at Pelham Bay Park, Bronx on 28 October. Two Western Tanagers were found. A female-type bird was discovered by Eric Miller at East Alley Marsh, Bayside, Queens on 12 November. It was present there at least to 28 November and seen by many. The second was at Stony Brook, Suffolk County on 17 November. Finally, Heydi Lopes found an adult male Yellow-headed Blackbird at Floyd Bennet Field on 24 September. It was also seen on the 25th.

The Four Harbors Audubon Society conducted an organized count of Common Nighthawks at Frank Melville Park, Setauket, Suffolk County. The site had been noted by local birders for large numbers of Common Nighthawks gathering to feed over Setauket Mill Pond during past migrations. The count was conducted on 40 evenings from late August to early October. By recent standards, the numbers of Common Nighthawks tallied were large, including a maximum of 573 on 8 September among a season total of 2046 birds. Additional documentation is forthcoming, and hopefully the effort will continue in future years using a standard methodology.

The fourth Seatuck Birding Challenge was held on 9 September, from 5:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. under good weather conditions. A flight overnight resulted in many nocturnal migrants arriving under calm morning conditions. 184 species were found, exceeding last year's record of 166. Nine teams competed this year despite a scheduling conflict that made it impossible to include high school teams. A new team, All Wings Considered, finally succeeded in dethroning the three-time champion Pteam Ptarmigeddon by recording an astonishing total of 139 species, demolishing the previous record of 118 set last year. The Captree Counters were second with 131, and Pteam Ptarmigeddon was third, also well ahead of the old mark, with 124 species. There were many highlights, including American Bittern, Broad-winged Hawk, two American Avocets, American Golden-Plover, Marbled Godwit, Baird's and Buff-breasted Sandpipers, Olive-sided and Acadian Flycatchers, Western Kingbird, Connecticut and Yellow-throated Warblers, multiple Yellow-breasted Chats, and Clay-colored and Lincoln's Sparrows. More information about the Challenge and full results can be found at the Seatuck website: <https://www.seatuck.org/index.php/2017-birding-challenge-results>

An astonishing 328 species were recorded in Region 10 this season. To the author's knowledge, this is an all-time record for the Region in any season.

The author mourns the passing of Robert J. Kurtz on 26 September, 2017. Bob was a dedicated birder and hawk watcher, who touched many with his infectious sense of humor. He was a frequent contributor to this report, reliably submitting his own detailed seasonal report that the author found very useful for his bird observations and other insights, especially on weather and climate patterns. The death of Holly Wilson-Camhi on 7 November was another painful loss for our community. Holly birded Brooklyn with her husband Phillip and more widely on Long Island and in upstate New York with Patricia Lindsay, her aunt, and Shai Mitra, both long-time Regional Editors for Region 10. Her vibrancy and enthusiasm for birding were recorded too briefly in these pages but will be remembered by those who knew her.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

APP – Alley Pd P, QUEE; **BLSP** – Belmont L SP, West Babylon, SUFF; **BPP** – Baisley Pd P, QUEE; **BPt** – Breezy Pt, QUEE; **BRY** – Bryant P, NEWY; **CB** – Cedar Beach, Babylon, SUFF; **CCP** – Cupsogue CP, SUFF; **CHP** – Conference House P, RICH; **CIC** – Coney I Cr/P, KING; **CP** – Central P, NEWY; **CR** – Cemetery of the Resurrection, RICH; **CRSP** – Connetquot R SP, SUFF; **CVP** – Calvert Vaux P, KING (formerly Drier-Offerman P); **Ed** – Sod fields on Edwards Av north of Route 25, Riverhead, SUFF; **EPCAL** – Calverton Grasslands (former Grumman Property), Calverton, SUFF; **FBF** – Floyd Bennett Field, KING; **FIHW** – Fire Island Hawk Watch, Robert Moses SP, SUFF;

FKP – Fresh Kills P, RICH; **FMCP** – Flushing Meadows-Corona P, QUEE; **FP** – Forest P, QUEE; **FT** – Fort Tilden, QUEE; **FWP** – Ft. Washington P, NEWY; **GBP** – Goethal’s Bridge Pd, RICH; **GBY** – Gravesend Bay, KING; **GKP** – Great Kills P, RICH; **GwC** – Green-wood Cemetery, KING; **HLSP** – Hempstead L SP, NASS; **HP** – Hook Pd, East Hampton, SUFF; **HSP** – Heckscher SP, SUFF; **JBSP** – Jones Beach SP, NASS; **JBWE** – West End, Jones Beach SP, NASS; **JBWR** – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, QUEE; **KP** – Kissena P, QUEE; **Mass** – Massapequa Preserve, NASS; **MB** – Mecox Bay/Mecox Inlet, SUFF; **MLUA** – Mt. Loretto Unique Area, RICH; **MNSA** – Marine Nature Study Area, Oceanside, NASS; **MP** – Montauk Pt SP, SUFF; **NYBG** – New York Botanical Garden, BRON; **PBP** – Pelham Bay P, BRON; **PL** – Patchogue L, Patchogue, SUFF; **PP** – Prospect P, KING; **RI** – Randall’s I, NEWY; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP, SUFF; **RP** – Jacob Riis P, QUEE; **Rt 105** – Sod fields south of Sound Av between Route 105 and Doctor’s Path, Riverhead, SUFF; **Sag** – Sagaponack Pd/Inlet, SUFF; **Shinn** – Shinnecock Inlet, SUFF; **SPCP** – Smith Pt CP, SUFF; **SPP** – Southards Pd P, West Babylon, SUFF; **SMSP** – Sunken Meadow SP, SUFF; **VCP** – Van Cortlandt P, BRON; **VSh** – Venetian Shores P, Lindenhurst, SUFF; **VSSP** – Valley Stream SP, NASS; **WPP** – Wolfe’s Pd P, RICH.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE: Deep Hollow Ranch, Montauk, SUFF 28 Nov (BH).
Greater White-fronted Goose: Calverton, SUFF 10 Nov (RBA); BLSP 16-29 Nov (JSt, mob).
Snow Goose: max 250 JBWR 18 Nov (JDi, et al), low num.
ROSS’S GOOSE (R10): CRSP 25Nov (B. Marrs), ph.
Brant: max 10,000 JBWE 25 Nov (GL).
BARNACLE GOOSE: Old Town Pd, Southampton, SUFF 15 Nov (RBA).
Cackling Goose: Hendrickson P, Valley Stream, NASS 10 Nov (TH); 2 Hendrickson P 11-22 Nov (TH, mob); PP 19 Nov (fide RJ); 2 PP 20-23 Nov (RJ, mob); 7 Calverton 24 Nov (DLM), large num; Grant P, Hewlett, NASS 30 Nov (KR).
Mute Swan: max 250 JBWR 30 Sep (P. Markee), more than recent years.
Tundra Swan: 21 JBWE 8 Nov (RBA), large num.
Wood Duck: max 39 MP 3 Sep (AnW), large num.
Gadwall: max 450 JBWR 9 Oct (DG, SS).
Eurasian Wigeon: JBWR 5 Oct thru (KF, SF, AB, CF); Eastport Pd, Eastport, SUFF 4 Nov thru (RBA); Fresh Pd, Ft. Salonga, SUFF 15 Nov thru (RBA); Mill Pd, W. Sayville, SUFF 29 Nov thru (JT).
Am. Wigeon: max 260 JBWR 9 Oct (DG, SS).
Am. Black Duck: max 900 JBWR 9 Nov (T. Lenz, *et al.*).

Blue-winged Teal: max 50 JBWR 5-19 Sep (CF).
N. Shoveler: max 551 JBWR 23 Oct (AB).
N. Pintail: max 75 Mass 26 Nov (EMu).
Green-winged Teal: max 350 JBWR 18 Oct (AB).
Canvasback: max 14 Tung Ting Pd, Centerport, SUFF 29 Nov (M. Jensen), low num.
Redhead: max 25 Baisley Pd P, QUEE 30 Nov (CCo), low num.
Ring-necked Duck: max 100 Eastport L, SUFF 12 Nov (AC), low num.
Greater Scaup: max 250 Gardiner CP, SUFF 19 Oct (S. Muntchnick), low num.
Lesser Scaup: max 60 Eastport L 12 Nov (AC).
King Eider: fem JBWE 18 Nov (KF); Ditch Plains, Montauk, SUFF 18 Nov (AiP).
Com. Eider: max 1500 MP 23 Nov (KF, SF), large num.
Harlequin Duck: max 6 Pt. Lookout, NASS 25 Nov (GL).
Surf Scoter: max 800 RMSP 29 Oct (BBo, PMo).
White-winged Scoter: max 1900 MP 24 Nov (KF, SF), large num.
Black Scoter: max 13,500 RMSP 29 Oct (BBo, PMo), large num.
Long-tailed Duck: max 77 Orient, SUFF 6 Nov (J. Milton), low num.
Bufflehead: max 252 Bush Terminal Pier, KING 12 Nov (AB).
Com. Goldeneye: max 4 Sammy’s B, East Hampton, SUFF 21 Oct (P. Markee); max 4

Stehli B, Lattingtown, NASS 18 Nov (B. Garriel); low num.

Hooded Merganser: max 125 Unqua L, Massapequa, NASS 25 Nov (EMU)

Com. Merganser: 2 SMSP 18 Nov (A. Angelis, I. Angelis); 2 JBWR 26-29 Nov (GL, A. Bartow); only reps.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 40 MLUA 25 Nov (ACi), low num.

Ruddy Duck: max 500 JBWR 3 Nov (SC), large num.

N. Bobwhite: 12 Greentree Estate, Manhasset, NASS 7 Oct (SP), released; 5 Dam Pd Pres, East Marion, SUFF 15 Oct (JSe), unusual loc.

PACIFIC LOON: MP 12 Nov (AC).

Red-necked Grebe: 2 MP 12 Nov (KF, SF), only rep.

N. Fulmar: 6 mi. s. Amagansett, SUFF 6 Nov (RBA); RMSP 15 Nov (RBA), rare from land.

Cory's Shearwater: 20 MB 17 Sep (SSM, PJL); 11 MP 4 Oct (RBA); BPt 9 Oct (RBA); 2 RMSP 8 Oct (RBA); Shinn 22 Oct (MC); East Hampton, SUFF 29 Oct (AnW).

Great Shearwater: 2 RMSP 5 Nov (TH); 8 mi. s. Amagansett 6 Nov (RBA); 2 MP 12 Nov (TH); BPt 19 Nov (MB).

Sooty Shearwater: 2 East Hampton 3 Sep (AnW), late.

Manx Shearwater: RMSP 29 Oct (TS).

BROWN BOOBY: ad L. Montauk, SUFF 27 Sep – 5 Nov (*fide* DR, mob, BBo).

N. Gannet: 8300 BPt 19 Nov (MB), large num.

Great Cormorant: L. Montauk 30 Sep (AnW), early.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN (R10): JBWR 29-30 Sep (EG, mob); JBWE 11 Nov (KR), ph.

Brown Pelican: 2 Jones Inlet, NASS 24 Sep (TH); 6 JBWE 15 Oct (TWB, GB).

Am. Bittern: Marine Park, KING 28 Oct (RBA); 2 Gligo B, SUFF 1 Nov (RBA); Dune Rd., Hampton Bays, SUFF 5 Nov (BBo).

Least Bittern: River Rd., RICH 22 Sep (IG); GBP 11 Oct (JRG).

Snowy Egret: max 153 JBWR 4 Sep (CF).

Tricolored Heron: MNSA 15-17 Sep (MF); JBWR 1-7 Oct (A. Angelis, I. Angelis, L. Cafuoco).

Cattle Egret: Bridgehampton, SUFF 19 Nov (VB, AnW).

Black Vulture: 5 Moses Mtn., RICH 21 Oct (CB); 5 Ft. Washington P, NEWY 20 Nov (NS).

Turkey Vulture: 26 CP 17 Oct (DA, *et al.*), large num.

HAWKS - LARIDS

Osprey: 836 FIHW (*fide* DP), all-time max and 140% above average of previous 20 years; 201 FIHW 22 Sep (*fide* DP), all-time max; Great Neck, NASS 15 Nov (JT), late.

GOLDEN EAGLE (R10): juv Southampton, SUFF 11 Nov (AC).

Bald Eagle: 12 FIHW (*fide* DP), all-time max and +172% 20-yr avg.

N. Harrier: 146 FIHW (*fide* DP), 36% below average of previous 20 years.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 92 FIHW (*fide* DP), all-time minimum and -73% 20-yr avg.

Cooper's Hawk: 49 FIHW (*fide* DP), +38% 20-yr avg.

Red-shouldered Hawk: FIHW 10 Nov (*fide* DP), rare on barrier island.

Broad-winged Hawk: 18 Bronx Zoo, BRON 29 Sep (TO).

Rough-legged Hawk: FIHW 11 Nov (*fide* DP), only rep.

CORN CRAKE: Cedar B, Babylon, SUFF 7-9 Nov (KF, SF, mob), *intro*.

Virginia Rail: Greentree Estate 11 Sep (SP); CHP 8 Nov (EJ); 48th St. & park Av., NEWY 8 Nov (*fide* L. Trachtenberg), found on hood of car, taken to rehabber; VCP 19 Nov (NS, *et al.*); up to 3 released by rehabber CP late Nov (*fide* TF).

Sora: JBWR 18 Sep (AL, CF).

Com. Gallinule: juv Mill Pd, Bellmore, NASS 18-23 Sep (J. Landesberg, mob); PP 14-21 Nov (JM, mob).

SANDHILL CRANE (R10): 3 St. George, RICH 8 Nov (IG), fly-over.

Am. Avocet: JBWR 8 Sep – 10 Oct (CF, mob); CCP 9 Sep (AC, BBo, BF).

Am. Oystercatcher: max 565 JBWE 15 Oct (RBA).

Am. Golden-Plover: few; Miller Field, RICH 3 Sep (ACi); Wading R, SUFF 3 Sep (TH); JBWR 8 Sep (CF); 2 Plumb B, KING 3 Sep (RBA); 2 MB 14 Sep (RBA); 2 Sag 14 Sep (RA); max 9 Riverhead 17 Sep (A. Ratay), low num; CR 23 Sep (ACi); CIC 20 Sep (DG); 2 BPt 21 Sep (AB); 6 JBWR 24 Sep (AB); JBWR 3 Oct (TF); JBWE 2-6 Oct (mob); 2 JBWR 5-7 Oct (KF, SF, AB); HSP 7 Oct (SF); JBWE 25 Oct (DD, *et al.*); 2-3 HSP 29 Oct – 3 Nov (GQ, SSM, KF, SF); 4 JBWE 17 Nov (PH).

Piping Plover: CCP 25 Nov (LO), late.

Spotted Sandpiper: Bush Terminal Pier, KING 28 Oct – 25 Nov (AB), late.

Greater Yellowlegs: 274 Broad Channel, QUEE 10 Oct (MB), large num.

Upland Sandpiper: Hulse Landing Rd, Wading River, SUFF 3 Sep (TH).

Whimbrel: PBP 9 Sep (MB); 3 PBP 10 Sep (MB); JBWE 24 Sep (TH).

Hudsonian Godwit: 2 JBWR 2 Sep (KM); JBWR 3 Sep (DG); JBWR 21 Sep – 8 Oct, PJJ, *et al.*, mob); 3–4 HSP 2–6 Nov (KF, DF, SSM, PJJ), one with tumors on head and leg; HSP 7–19 Nov (mob); JBWR 4 Nov (CF).

Marbled Godwit: 3 Old Inlet, Bellport, SUFF 2 Sep (RBA); JBWE 4 Sep (AL, *et al.*); Little Egg Marsh, Broad Channel, QUEE 14 Oct (MB).

Red Knot: max 155 JBWE 10 Sep (BF, TH).

Stilt Sandpiper: Timber Pt., SUFF 7 Sep (JSt), unusual loc; max 25 JBWR 19 Sep (CF); 9 JBWR 6 Oct (AB); JBWE 5 Nov (AB), late.

Baird's Sandpiper: Wading River 2 Sep (MSch); JBWR 8 Sep (mob); Miller Field 9–11 Sep (EJ, JRG); 2 Miller Field 13 Sep (HF, JRG); JBWE 3 Nov (RBA), late.

White-rumped Sandpiper: max 15 JBWR 11 Sep (CF); JBWR 22 Oct (SW), late.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: few; Rockaway, QUEE 1 Sep (CF), unusual loc; max 4 Riverhead 2 Sep (MY, *et al.*); Wading River 2 Sep (MSch); 2 Wading River 3 Sep (TH).

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 41 JBWR 6 Oct (AB), large num.

Short-billed Dowitcher: max 35 CCP 15 Sep (KF, SF), low num.

Long-billed Dowitcher: max 13 Santapogue Cr, Lindenhurst, SUFF 27 Sep (AL).

Wilson's Phalarope: JBWR 5 Sep (CF); JBWR 17 Sep (KF).

Red-necked Phalarope: 5 Kenny's B, Southold, SUFF 1 Sep (L. Normandia, R. Kedenburg), ph!, unusual loc.

Pomarine Jaeger: BPt 9 Oct (RBA), rare from land.

Parasitic Jaeger: 3 CCP 19 Sep (SSM); 2 RMSP 20 Sep (SSM); Oakwood B, RICH 20 Sep (ACi); MP 4 Oct (RBA); FT 7 Oct (CF, *et al.*); FT 9 Oct (SA, CF); 2 RP 9 Oct (SA, CF); 15 BPt 9 Oct (RBA), large num; 2 Coney I, KING 9 Oct (RBA); 3 RMSP 29 Oct (RBA); 3 RMSP 15 Nov (RBA); JBWE 25 Nov (TH); **Dovekie:** MP 18 Nov (AiP).

Razorbill: 2 East Hampton 24 Oct (AnW), early; 2 MP 12 Nov (AC); max 12 RMSP 16 Nov (KF); 2 JBWE 18 Nov (KF).

Black-legged Kittiwake: CCP 17 Sep (SSM, PJJ); PBP 5 Nov (JR, mob); 2 Camp Hero SP, Montauk, SUFF 5 Nov (BBo); 4 RMSP 15

Nov (RBA); BPt 19 Nov MB; RP 25 Nov (AB); max 12 RMSP 26 Nov (PMo, TS, *et al.*).

Bonaparte's Gull: max 1500 RMSP 25–26 Nov (BBo, PMo, TS, *et al.*).

Black-headed Gull: PBP 3–12 Nov (RBA, AB, JR, AR).

Little Gull: MP 23 Nov (KF, SF).

FRANKLIN'S GULL (R10): Miller Field 13 Sep (HF, JRG).

Iceland Gull: Old Inlet, Bellport 2 Sep (RBA); SPCP 21 Sep (RA, JHr), 3 cy; early; City I, BRON 11 Nov (RBA); BPt 18–19 Nov (RAR, MB); RP 25 Nov (AB).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 9 Old Inlet, Bellport 2 Sep (RBA); 2 SPCP 8 Sep (RBA); juv JBWE 10 Sep (SA); 4 Sag 14 Sep (RBA); ad CCP 17 Sep (SSM, PJJ); BPt 17 Sep (AB); 6 SPCP 19 Sep (JHr); 12 RMSP 19 Sep (BB); 13 JBWE 19 Sep (BB); 8 juv RMSP 20 Sep (SSM); Arden Av., RICH 27 Sep thru, returning ad (mob); 18 JBWE 16 Oct (*fide* AB); 23 JBWE 24 Oct (RT); max 48 RMSP 29 Oct (SSM, PJJ, MC); Maratooka L, Mattituck, SUFF 19 Nov, SA, MN, 1st win; BPt 19 Nov (MB); 2 RP 25 Nov (AB).

BRIDLED TERN: Great Gull I, SUFF 2–5 Sep (JDi, *et al.*), ph.

Gull-billed Tern: Leads Pd Pres, Pt. Washington, NASS 14 Sep (CCo), only rep.

Caspian Tern: 2 JBWR 9–10 Sep (CF, SA, MN, SP); 3 Pike's B, Westhampton Dunes, SUFF 3 Sep (RBA); JBWR 16 Sep (SW); 3 JBWR 19 Sep – 9 Oct (CF, TWB, GB, mob); 2 BPt 21 Sep (AB); 2 MP 4 Oct (RBA); 2 MB 5 Oct (RBA); max 6 RMSP 8 Oct (KF, SF, PMo); 2 FT 10 Oct (DG).

Black Tern: 2 Pike's B 3 Sep (RBA); max 64 JBSP 7 Sep (KF), large num; 2 MB 14 Sep (RBA); 7 MB 17 Sep (SSM, PJJ); Nickerson B, NASS 18 Sep (AB); 7 JBSP 19 Sep (RT).

Roseate Tern: max 300 Great Gull I 6 Sep (JDi), large num.

Royal Tern: appx. 30 reps. incl: 150 Old Inlet, Bellport 2 Sep (RBA); 241 Midland B, RICH 20 Sep (IG); 31 Pike's B 4 Oct (RBA); 34 MB 5 Oct (RBA); 42 FT 7 Oct (CF, *et al.*); 270 Midland B 25 Oct (CB); 107 Midland B 27 Oct (RV); max 280 Midland B 28 Oct (TH); 57 Midland B 2 Nov (RV); 2 RMSP 15 Nov (RBA); 3 BPt 18 Nov (RAR, MB); 4 BPt 19 Nov (MB), last.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Cedar B, RICH 7 Nov (RV), late.

Black-billed Cuckoo: Caumsett SP, SUFF 12 Nov (DK, BR), late

Great Horned Owl: max 4 Greentree Estate, 1 Sep (SP); FT 7 Oct (CF, *et al.*), unusual loc.

Snowy Owl: Bush Terminal Pier 12 Nov (RBA), unusual loc; max 5 Fire I, SUFF 23 Nov (DR).

Long-eared Owl: KP 9 Nov (CCo).

Short-eared Owl: 2 reps.

N. Saw-whet Owl: 2 reps.

Com. Nighthawk: 164 Setauket, SUFF 4 Sep (JT, PDI, *et al.*); 307 Setauket 7 Sep (JT, PDI, *et al.*); max 573 Setauket 8 Sep (JT, PDI, *et al.*); 134 Setauket 13 Sep (JT, PDI, *et al.*); large nums; *intro*.

E. Whip-poor-will: Coney I Cr P 23 Sep (mob), rare in fall.

Chimney Swift: 1625 FT 1 Sep (DG, SB), 7-hour watch.

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD: Baiting Hollow, SUFF 1 Oct (RBA), imm m, ph.

Red-headed Woodpecker: RMSP 9 Sep (TH); Oakland L, QUEE 10 Sep (AG); imm CLP 13 Sep (EJ); CP 17 Sep (DA, *et al.*); RMSP 30 Sep (RBA); imm FT 7-10 Oct (CF, *et al.*, DG); GwC 5 Nov thru (PD, RBA).

PILEATED WOODPECKER (R10): CLP 9 Sep (EJ); Jayne's Hill, Huntington, SUFF, 3 Oct (*fide* PPa).

Am. Kestrel: 712 FIHW (*fide* DP), -17% 20-yr avg.

Merlin: 1177 FIHW (*fide* DP), -10% 20-yr avg.

Peregrine Falcon: 216 FIHW (*fide* DP), +14% 20-yr avg.

Monk Parakeet: max 40 Santapogue Cr 18 Nov (BBo, PMo, TS).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 3 PP 1 Sep (K. O'hearn); CLP 2 Sep (EJ); CP 2 Sep (DA, *et al.*); CP 12 Sep (ABi).

HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER: CP 26 Nov thru (Linda LaBella, mob).

"Empidonax" sp.: CP 25 Nov (DA, *et al.*), late.

SAY'S PHOEBE: HSP 8 Nov (PJL).

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER: MLUA 23 Nov (EJ, DE).

Western Kingbird: RMSP 6 Sep (PA); RMSP 9 Sep (TH); JBWE 10 Sep (TH); Governor's I, NEWY 15 Sep (BC).

N. Shrike: JBWE 10 Nov (PH), ph.

White-eyed Vireo: 2 RMSP 6 Nov (SSM); BPt 29 Nov (AB); late.

Philadelphia Vireo: CP 17 Sep (DA, *et al.*); Old Westbury, NASS 23 Sep (EM, *et al.*); CIC 19-29 Nov (RBA), late.

Red-eyed Vireo: 2 RP 11 Nov (AB), late.

Com. Raven: 2 CP 9 Sep (J. Spindel); 2 Forest Hills, QUEE 10 Sep (MN, SA); Park Slope, KING 7 Oct (M. Wohl); 2 Tiffany Pres., Oyster Bay Cove, NASS 14 Oct (PM); 10 Moses Mtn 4 Nov (CB), large num; 3 Merrick, NASS 4 Nov (PM); 2 Frick Estate, Roslyn, NASS 5 Nov (PM); 2 CP 19 Nov (DA, *et al.*); 2 Van Name Cove, RICH 27 Nov (EJ); widespread and under-reported.

Purple Martin: 11 FT 1 Sep (DG, SB), 7-hour watch.

Bank Swallow: 76 FT 1 Sep (DG, SB), 7-hour watch.

Cliff Swallow: 13 FT 1 Sep (DG, SB), 7-hour watch.

CAVE SWALLOW: BPt 24 Nov (J. Gyekis, L. Snavelly).

Barn Swallow: 1315 FT 1 Sep (DG, SB), 7-hour watch.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: very few; appx 10 reps, max 2.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: 31 Greentree Estate 17 Oct (SP), large num.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 86 Greentree Estate 17 Oct (SP), large num.

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE: Suffolk County farm, Yaphank, SUFF 26 Nov (R. Haines, *fide* JGI).

Am. Pipit: 5 JBWR 5 Oct (KF, SF), unusual loc.

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: PBP 4 Nov (RBA); RMSP 18 Nov (SA, MN, PJL, SSM), migr; FIHW 26 Nov (RBA).

Ovenbird: thru (RBA).

Louisiana Waterthrush: CP 2 Sep (J. Sepulvida), rare in fall.

N. Waterthrush: CP 26-28 Nov (DA, *et al.*; J. Keane, B. Inskeep), late; present thru (RBA).

Golden-winged Warbler: APP 1-9 Sep (EM, JR, mob); 2 APP 16 Sep (EM, MZ).

Black-and-white Warbler: thru (RBA).

Prothonotary Warbler: Suffolk County Farm, Yaphank, 24 Nov thru (*fide* RP, mob).

Tennessee Warbler: CP 15 Oct (DA, *et al.*); Owl's Head P, KING 6 Nov (RM); late.

Orange-crowned Warbler: appx 30 reps incl: CP 1 Sep (DA, *et al.*), early; 2 PP 17 Oct (SS); 2 PBP 2 Nov (RBA); 3 CP 11 Nov (DA, *et al.*); 3 E. Alley Marsh, QUEE 14 Nov (AB, mob);

BRY 19 Nov (J. Keefer); 2 CP 25 Nov (DA, et al.); 3 Hendrix Cr/Canarsie P, KING 30 Nov (DG, SS).

Nashville Warbler: thru (RBA).

Connecticut Warbler: PP 4 Sep (K. O'Hearn, JM, mob); Uplands Farm Pres, Cold Spring Harbor, SUFF 8 Sep (BBo); CP 8 Sep (*fide* TF); APP 9 Sep (EM, JR); Sands Pt. Pres, NASS 9 Sep (GQ); Brooklyn Bridge P, KING 15 Sep (H. Wolf); CP 15 Sep (KFu); KP 20 Sep (EM, *et al.*); APP 22 Sep (EM, et al); CP 23 Sep (ACi); Snug Harbor, RICH 23 Sep (IG);

Kentucky Warbler: CP 10 Sep (D. Mullins), rare in fall.

Com. Yellowthroat: thru (RBA).

Hooded Warbler: appx 25 reps incl: CP 7 Sep (P. Pollock); 4 CP 30 Sep (DA, *et al.*), large num; Gardiner's P, Bayshore, SUFF 27 Oct (N. Laviola), late; PP 16 Nov (RBA); APP 17 Nov (RBA); PP 19 Nov (M. Brawer).

Am. Redstart: CP 29 Nov (B. Elbert), late.

Cape May Warbler: 17 FT 1 Sep (DG, SB), 7-hour watch; max 32 Coney I Cr P 9 Sep (DG), large num.

N. Parula: 2 RMSP 6 Nov (SSM); CP 26 Nov (DA, et al.); BPt 29 Nov (AB); Hendrix Cr. 30 Nov (DG, SS); thru (RBA).

Magnolia Warbler: CP 27 Oct (DA, *et al.*); RMSP 7 Nov (BBo); PP 23 Nov (C. McRae); late; thru (RBA).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: CP 15 Oct (DA, *et al.*); Stuyvesant Town, NEWY 20 Oct (AL); late.

Blackpoll Warbler: Coney I Cr P 20 Nov (K.O'hearn, K. Toomey), late.

Palm Warbler: 64 Greentree Estate 17 Oct (SP), large num.

Yellow-throated Warbler: Snug Harbor 30 Sep (IG); CLP 4 Oct (HF); CP 28-30 Oct (RBA).

Black-throated Green Warbler: VCP 19 Nov (NS, *et al.*); VCP 25 Nov (MB, RAr); late.

Canada Warbler: CP 29 Nov (E. Ratner), late; thru (RBA).

Wilson's Warbler: IHP 15 Nov (RBA); CP 23 Nov (DA, *et al.*); CP 26 Nov - thru (DA, *et al.*, S. Robinson); late.

Yellow-breasted Chat: 3 FT 9 Sep (SA, MN, JGl, *et al.*).

TOWHEES _ WEAVERS

Chipping Sparrow: 99 Greentree Estate 17 Oct (SP), large num.

Clay-colored Sparrow: 3 RMSP 5 Sep (SF, AG, *et al.*); GwC 10-11 Sep (RJ, mob); JBWE 17 Sep (PM); MP 17 Sep (SSM, PJL); CP 24 Sep (ACi); CP 23 Sep (mob); Tiana B, Hampton Bays, SUFF 1 Oct (MC); RMSP 11 Oct (RBA); JBWE 16 Oct (RBA); PP 17 Oct (SS); KP 31 Oct (PR, *et al.*); MLUA 23 Nov (EJ, DE), late; Hither Hills SP, SUFF 24 Nov (KF, SF), late.

Vesper Sparrow: PBP 1 Oct (JC); KP 10 Oct (SA, MN); WPP 16 Oct (ACi); Ft. Wadsworth, RICH 18 Oct (IG); KP 21 Oct (PR); 2 PBP 25 Oct (MB); KP 30 Oct (PR, *et al.*).

Lark Sparrow: RMSP 9 Sep (TH); FIHW 10 Sep (MN); GwC 9-10 Sep (RJ, mob); Miller Field 18 Sep (ACi); JBWE 1 Oct (RBA); RMSP 22 Nov (RBA), late.

LARK BUNTING: RMSP 28-29 Sep (BBo, mob).

Grasshopper Sparrow: RMSP 11 Oct (PJL, DF); KP 27 Oct (*fide* PR).

LE CONTE'S SPARROW: PBP 28 Oct (PR, MB), ph.

Nelson's Sparrow: 7 PB 14 Oct (JM); Big Egg Marsh 14 Oct (MB); JBWR 15 Oct (CF); FT 21 Oct (RZE, AL, *et al.*); max 8 Dune Rd., Hampton Bays 22 Oct (MC); Cedar Grove B, RICH 25 Oct (RV), *nelsoni*; 4 PBP 25 Oct (MB).

Song Sparrow: 216 Greentree Estate 17 Oct (SP), large num.

Lincoln's Sparrow: appx 35 reps fr. 19 Sep incl: 5 RP 30 Sep (AB); 3 Greentree Estate 7-8 Oct (SP); 5 Greentree Estate 17 Oct (SP); 5 Cedar Grove B 18 Oct (RV).

Swamp Sparrow: 139 Greentree Estate 17 Oct (SP), large num.

White-throated Sparrow: 227 Greentree Estate 17 Oct (SP), large num.

White-crowned Sparrow: 4 Greentree Estate 17 Oct (SP).

Summer Tanager: GwC 1 Oct (RBA), ph.

WESTERN TANAGER: E. Alley Marsh 12-28 Nov (EN, mob); Stony Brook, SUFF 17 Nov thru (RBA).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: RMSP 6 Nov (SSM), late.

Blue Grosbeak: FIHW 10 Sep (MN); 2 FIHW 12 Sep (MN, SA, CF); Greentree Estate 7 Oct (SP); JBWE 5 Nov (PJL), late.

Indigo Bunting: 22 Greentree Estate 7 Oct (SP), large num; RMSP 6 Nov (SSM), late.

Dickcissel: FT 1 Sep (DG, SB); RMSP 4 Sep (S. Gilbert); JBWE 22 Sep (TH); 2 MLUA 30 Sep (RV); CHP 30 Sep (RV); PBP 1 Oct (JC); JBWE 7 Oct (DF); CSP 18 Oct (RA); JBWE

25 Oct (DD, *et al.*); PBP 2 Nov (RBA); 2 Cedar Grove B 15 Nov (RV); RMSP 22 Nov (RBA).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: ad m FBF 24-25 Sep (HL, mob)

Rusty Blackbird: 7 Twin Lakes Pres., Wantagh, NASS 15 Nov (PM).

Boat-tailed Grackle: CP 25-26 Nov (RBA), unusual loc.

Orchard Oriole: RMSP 1 Sep (SSM, BBo, TS), rare in fall.

Purple Finch: few; appx 15 reps; max 16 FBF 18 Nov (R. Bumbry).

Pine Siskin: only 4 reps; max 2 SMSP 20 Oct (KF, SF)

Am. Goldfinch: few; max 72 RMSP 23 Nov (MMcB).

===



Bob Kurtz at the Fire Island Hawkwatch, *Suffolk*, 5 Nov 2011.

STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

Regional rarities appear in BOLD; county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in UPPER CASE letters; months are shortened to their first three letters. In species accounts: number of individuals omitted implies that one individual was reported; ! – details seen by Regional Editor; ad – adult; Alt – Alternate plumage; Am. – American; arr – arrival or first of season; BBS – Breeding Bird Survey; BOTS – bird of the season; CBC – Christmas Bird Count; CO – confirmed nesting; Com. – Common; E. – Eastern; FL – fledgling; FY – adult feeding young; I – Island; imm – immature; intro – see introduction to report; juv – juvenile; L – Lake; max – maximum; mob – multiple observers; N. – Northern; NYSDEC – New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; NWR – National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC – report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P – park; Pd – Pond; ph – photographed; Pt – Point; Res – Reservoir; Ri – River; SP – State Park; spm – specimen; subad – subadult; T – Town of; thru – throughout period; Twn – township; W. – Western; WMA – Wildlife Management Area; y – young.

REPORTING REGIONS

Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, except at:

Region 1-Region 2 in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties:

the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia;
NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19
from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County:

the boundary is Mud Creek to NY Route 64, NY Route 64
from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs, and Route 21
from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line.

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County:

the boundary is NY Route 31.

REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February

Deadline is 7 March

Spring Season: March, April, May

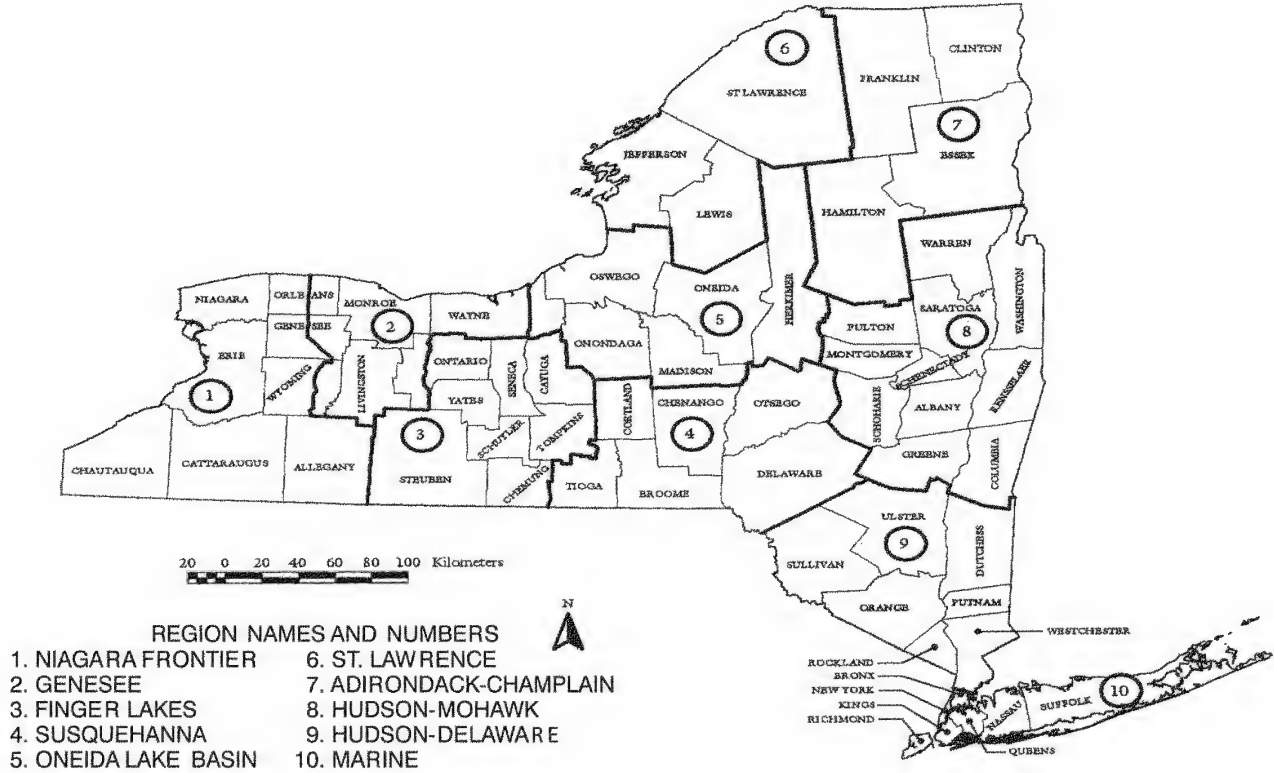
Deadline is 7 June

Summer Season: June, July, August

Deadline is 7 September

Fall Season: September, October, November

Deadline is 7 December



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Front Cover – Eastern Kingbird, © Douglas Howland.

Back Cover – Eastern Kingbird, © Andrew Valley.

COMMON RAVEN (*Corvus corax*) RANGE EXPANSION ONTO THE ERIE/ONTARIO LAKE PLAIN OF NEW YORK STATE

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During much of the historical era, from the late 19th through mid 20th Centuries, the Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) was absent from most of New York State and quite rare even in the most remote parts of the Adirondack Mountains (Bull 1974). More recently, the New York State population has expanded dramatically, increasing at a rate of 9% per year from 1966-2015 (Sauer et al. 2017). During this period, however, nesting reports have generally remained restricted to locations of higher elevation such as the Allegheny and Tug Hill Plateaus, and Catskill and Adirondack Mountains (Boarman and Heinrich 1999, USDA NRCS 2006, McGowan 2008, eBird 2012). In the Niagara Frontier region of southeastern Ontario and western New York, Beardslee and Mitchell (1965) emphasized the species' rarity but noted a definite migration presence during April and October. Here we report the first documented nestings by Common Ravens on the Erie Ontario Lake Plain, the area of low topographic relief along the Lake Erie and Lake Ontario shorelines.

The Lake Erie and Lake Ontario shorelines are also known as the Erie/Ontario Lake Plain Ecoregion of New York State (herein referred to as the Lake Plain). Ecoregions are areas of general similarity in ecosystems and in the type, quality, and quantity of environmental resources (USEPA 2016). The Lake Plain Ecoregion in New York includes portions of Chautauqua, Erie, Niagara, Orleans, Monroe, and Wayne Counties (Fig. 1, p.133; Bryce et. al. 2010). A small part of Cayuga County is also in the Lake Plain, but we did not discuss Cayuga County in this report due to its relatively small amount of area that falls within the Lake Plain Ecoregion.

Prior to 2017, there were three previously known nests within the Lake Plain, all dating from after the 2000-2005 census period of the Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State (McGowan and Corwin 2008). One nest, in Erie County, was located at the Huntley Station power plant in Tonawanda and was first reported in 2011. The other two nests were in Monroe County. The first

Monroe County nest was reported in 2011 and was located at Mendon Ponds County Park in Mendon (eBird 2012). The second Monroe County nest was first reported in 2015 and was located near the smokestacks of Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation's Russell Station in Greece, NY.

During the 2017 breeding season five new Common Raven nests were documented within the Lake Plain of New York. These nests were located in Erie, Niagara, Monroe, and Wayne Counties. One of the Erie County nests was located on the exterior stairway of an abandoned building on the former Bethlehem Steel Corporation Lackawanna Plant in Buffalo (Figs. 2 & 3, p. 134). A second Erie County nest location was identified in the Buffalo Crushed Stone quarry in Lancaster. The Niagara County nest was located in a tower of the coal generation station at the Delphi Plant in Lockport (Bob Elam, pers. comm.). The Monroe County nest was located on the superstructure of a railroad truss bridge over the Erie Canal in Pittsford (Fig. 4, p. 134). The Wayne County nest was in a New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) salt barn in Sodus (Figs. 5 & 6, p. 135).

There were also several reports of probable nests in the Lake Plain counties starting in 2013. However, due to their unconfirmed status, the locations are not included in this report. The probable nest locations were generally associated with larger natural areas (NYPA Reservoir, Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, Thousand Acre Swamp, and Webster Park), landfills (High Acres and Niagara County) and power plants (Ginna). We propose that the new nest locations are indicative of Common Raven's breeding range expansion onto the Lake Plain of New York State since the publication of the Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State.

At the time of this writing there have been eight nest sites of Common Raven documented on the Lake Plain (Table 1), whereas up to 2005 there were no Common Raven nests documented on the Lake Plain (McGowan 2008). This coincides with documented southward breeding expansion of Common Raven in Ontario, Canada (Peck 2005). Additionally, Common Raven sightings reported to Cornell's eBird database have been steadily increasing for the Lake Plain counties as a whole (Fig. 7, p. 136; eBird 2017). The increasing raven population (Sauer et al. 2017), the increase in eBird reports, several new nest locations, and the documented southward expansion of Common Raven in Ontario suggest the species is expanding its breeding range in New York State and nesting occurrences are likely to become more common on the Lake Plain.

Common Ravens prefer heavily contoured landscapes (e.g., cliffs), which provide thermals for long-distance foraging; and also areas with cliffs, trees, or human structures necessary for nesting (Boarman and Heinrich 1999). In contrast, the Lake Plain is relatively flat. The expansion of the Common Raven's nesting range into what was previously considered sub-optimal habitat may be attributed to saturation of territories in optimal habitat or the natural adaptability of a highly adaptable species.

Table 1: Summary Table of Common Raven Nest locations in the Erie/Ontario Lake Plain.

Nest Site Name	Location	Description	Year*	Additional Notes/Observations
Huntley Station Power Plant	Tonawanda, Erie Co.	Somewhere on the grounds of the power plant.	2011	Confirmed nesting reports are only available in eBird for 2011, 2014 and 2015. Current status unknown.
Mendon Ponds County Park	Mendon, Monroe Co.	In a spruce tree along Quaker Pond trail within the County park.	2011	A pair has nested every year since 2011 and are reported year-round in the area.
Russell Station	Greece, Monroe Co.	In the smokestack area of power plant.	2015	Nest was last reported in 2016. Russell Station was demolished in 2016.
Bethlehem Steel Corp. Lackawanna Plant	Buffalo, Erie Co.	On an exterior stairwell of an abandoned building.	2017	Raven chased the nesting peregrine pair who had occupied this site since 2013.
Stone Quarry	Lancaster, Erie Co.	Adult observed carrying food or nesting material toward stone quarry during breeding season.	2017	Only one report made for the location on 27 April, 2017.
Delphi Plant	Lockport, Niagara Co.	Near the smokestack tower of the coal generation station.	2017	Pair was first observed in the area in 2015. Probable nesting in 2016. Confirmed nest in 2017 season, with three fledglings observed.
Pittsford Railroad bridge over Erie Canal	Pittsford, Monroe Co.	Top of superstructure where several beams come together.	2017	Fledged 3 young in 2017.
Sodus Salt Barn	Sodus, Wayne Co.	Top of the frame arch inside the NYSDOT salt barn.	2017	Fledged 5 young in 2017. Nest fell down at end of 2017 breeding season.

* First year nesting behavior was confirmed.

All but one (Mendon Ponds Park) of the recent nests on the Lake Plain were constructed on or within manmade structures. These new nest locations support Boarman and Heinrich's (1999) account that ravens are adaptable, use a diversity of nest substrates, and benefit from resources provided by human activities. Range expansion into more densely human populated areas along the Lake Plain will likely lead to more opportunities for raven-human interactions, and possibly potential conflicts, in the future.

Additional Observation Information for the Sodus Salt Barn Nest:

NYSDOT workers observed nest building attempts by the Common Ravens early in 2017. The workers noted that sticks dropped during nest-building attempts were not retrieved by the ravens. After what appeared to be many failed attempts at nest building, it was thought the ravens had moved on. In April the Sodus work crews relocated to a different maintenance facility for summer work activities. The gates and buildings at the Sodus facility were locked, and there was little to no human activity in the area. However, the front of the salt barn is always open for the ravens to access (Fig. 5).

In early May, a State of Emergency was declared due to historically high water levels in Lake Ontario. The Sodus NYSDOT facility was re-opened due to the emergency and became the headquarters for the Army Reserve sandbag-making operation. On 4 May 2017 the raven nest was discovered in the roofing frame of the salt barn. The Sodus salt barn nest was precariously built, wedged between cross beams of the barn's frame (Figs. 5 & 6). Five chicks were observed in the nest during feedings.

The adult ravens appeared to actively forage along the railroad corridor immediately adjacent to the NYSDOT property. After a food drop for the nestlings, one of the adults would often fly over the rail corridor and return to the nest within a few minutes with another food item, while the other adult was still visibly perched on a nearby telephone pole. This was observed several times over the nestling stage. On 26 May, the adult ravens started to leave food on the floor within the barn instead of bringing it to the nest.

The first chick observed to fledge the nest was recorded on 2 Jun. A second chick fledged on 3 Jun. Shortly after the second chick fledged, the nest fell down. Two other birds that were still in the nest managed to fly off without obvious injury. The fifth chick was not seen on the nest after 1 Jun but was observed outside of the salt barn and is presumed to have fledged prior to 2 Jun.

The NYSDOT work crews kept an eye out for the young as they left the nest and avoided any harmful interactions. The pair managed to raise and fledge five chicks despite the intensive amount of human activity associated with the sandbagging operation that occurred in close proximity to the salt barn and surrounding buildings.

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WINTER WATERFOWL COUNT, JANUARY 2018

Bill Ostrander

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At least 345 volunteers went into the field 11-26 January 2018 and conducted the New York State Ornithological Association's January Waterfowl Count. The volunteers logged 924 party-hours and counted 310,605 waterfowl. Swift (2007) described the methodology of the count.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

An examination of weather records from Buffalo, Ithaca, Plattsburgh, Poughkeepsie, and Islip showed that New York State experienced a prolonged spell of sub-freezing temperatures during the last week of December 2017 and the first week of January 2018 leading to the freezing of still water, slow-moving water and shallow moving water. Two or three days of warmer weather reaching into the 50s F immediately preceded the beginning of the official count period, 13-21 January. Snow and cold returned on 13 January, so the extent of frozen water continued to be the same through the count period. Other than the first day of the count, snow was not much of a factor in terms of limiting volunteer participation.

RESULTS

In this summary, I will compare the 2018 numbers with the average numbers from the decade, 2001-2010. The total number of waterfowl counted this year, 310,605, was more than 73,000 fewer than the average for the 2001-2010 decade. The difference was spread across all the major groupings of waterfowl—geese, swans, dabbling ducks, non-anseriformes waterfowl—except diving ducks which were counted in higher numbers in 2018. The pre-count freeze seems to have most affected the shallow water feeders, the geese, swans, dabbling ducks, and coots. Sometimes snow cover affects the geese, swans, and dabbling ducks which also forage in corn fields, but there was little snow cover in most of the state prior to and during the count.

eBird (2018) data show that both Snow and Canada Goose numbers dropped precipitously during December. There was an uptick in eBird's Canada Goose numbers the week of the count, but this may have been the effect of January Waterfowl Count volunteers submitting counts to eBird. Mute, Trumpeter, and Tundra Swan numbers were all less in 2018 than in the average 2001-2010 counts. The difference of more than 600 Mute Swans accounts for most of the swan decline.

Table 1. Regional totals for the 2018 January Waterfowl Count.

Species/Region	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Goose, Gr. White-fr.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Snow	0	0	1,150	0	0	0	0	0	1	1,072	2,223
Ross's	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Canada	2,976	2,563	25,652	2,086	2,675	116	68	1,504	14,398	42,644	94,682
Cackling	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	7	9
Brant	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,212	17,567	18,779
Swan, Mute	8	259	54	6	34	48	0	0	155	497	1,061
Trumpeter	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	7
Tundra	332	0	312	0	1	4	0	0	0	6	655
not to species	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wood Duck	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	57	61
Gadwall	12	6	50	4	2	0	2	0	241	1,118	1,435
Wigeon, Eurasian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
American	2	0	25	2	0	0	0	0	82	719	830
Am. Black Duck	83	100	598	199	90	23	130	74	772	5,941	8,010
Mallard	1,321	1,811	5,596	1,513	2,106	72	1,343	841	4,033	7,427	26,063
Mallard X Black	1	1	2	4	2	0	4	0	0	45	59
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Northern Shoveler	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	339	339
Northern Pintail	4	2	7	1	1	0	0	2	8	96	121
Green-winged Teal	0	5	0	1	0	2	0	0	5	102	115
Canvasback	5,181	1	632	0	3	0	0	0	65	57	5,939
Redhead	598	34	30,928	45	1,157	4	0	1	11	25	32,803
Ring-necked Duck	20	0	3,732	3	12	0	6	0	36	154	3,963
Tufted Duck	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scaup, Greater	9,311	877	547	0	114	0	0	0	2,846	18,174	31,869

Species/Region	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Lesser	916	30	1,545	0	16	0	1	0	139	860	3,507
not to species	6,120	50	498	0	30	50	2	0	0	8,393	15,143
Eider, King	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Common	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,206	4,206
Harlequin Duck	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	9
Scoter, Surf	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	868	871
White-winged	348	120	90	1	24	2	0	0	7	1,683	2,275
Black	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1,254	1,255
not to species	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,028	1,029
Long-tailed Duck	863	2,393	41	9	233	261	0	0	211	6,178	10,189
Bufflehead	1,956	16	243	3	40	29	81	0	637	4,581	7,586
Goldeneye, Co.	2,918	1,049	2,041	18	659	946	2,121	212	174	973	11,111
Barrow's	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	6	10
Merganser, Hooded	41	1	106	77	68	7	28	33	163	1,101	1,625
Common	396	1,269	2,005	199	1,663	552	165	38	668	175	7,130
Red-breasted	1,543	2,270	504	0	620	8	1	0	124	1,414	6,484
Ruddy Duck	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	18	894	922
Loon, Red-throated	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	10	30	44
Common	2	1	5	0	0	1	4	0	19	249	281
Grebe, Pied-billed	0	1	11	0	3	0	0	0	2	4	21
Horned	1	3	36	0	15	0	25	0	16	140	236
Red-necked	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	6	7
Eared	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cormorant, D.-cr.	2	6	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	63	76
Great	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	67	96
American Coot	4	6	625	1	1	0	0	0	4	212	853
Other/Unidentified	5,522	6	15	0	0	112	0	0	21	933	6,609
TOTALS	40,485	12,885	77,064	4,173	9,584	2,239	3,982	2,705	26,110	131,378	310,605

All dabbling duck species, except Wood Duck, contributed to the 2018 dabbler count being lower than the 2001-2010 average. All regularly occurring non-anseriformes species contributed to the lower 2018 count for that grouping. These include Red-throated and Common Loons, Pied-billed, Horned, and Red-necked Grebes, and Double-crested and Great Cormorants.

Volunteers found slightly more diving ducks in 2018 than the average for the 2001-2010 decade. Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, scaup, and Long-tailed Duck accounted for this increase. All other diving duck species numbers were lower in 2018 than the 2001-2010 average.

LONG-TERM TRENDS

Tundra Swan had a sharp decrease in numbers since the 2017 count, from 1443 to 655. This was the lowest count for this species since 2005. The drop may be part of a new downward trend for this species or simply the result of a cold period preceding the count.

The Canvasback count was only about half of the 2017 count, but still higher than the 2016 count. The count of 5939 was a little more than one-third of the 2001-2010 average.

By comparing the averages for the periods 1973-2000, 2001-2010, and 2013-2018, possible long-term trends in New York State's winter waterfowl populations can be identified. Long-term increases can be surmised in this way for Snow Goose, Brant, Trumpeter Swan, Tundra Swan, Gadwall, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Common Eider, Long-tailed Duck, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, and Red-breasted Merganser. Long-term decreases can likewise be surmised for American Wigeon, American Black Duck, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, scaup, Common Merganser, and Great Cormorant.

FUTURE COUNTS

You can help with the 2019 count by contacting your Regional compiler. Compiler contact information (and also the historical data) is available online at:

<http://nybirds.org/ProjWaterfowl.htm>

For planning purposes, the January Waterfowl Count is conducted in a period that begins the Saturday before Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (the third Monday in January). The next two count periods will be:

2019 – January 19-27 (target date Sunday, January 20)

2020 – January 18-26 (target date Sunday, January 19)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks to everyone who participated in the 2018 January Waterfowl Count. The many dedicated field observers volunteered many hours in the field. Regional and local compilers and coordinators deserve special thanks for making sure that the state had good coverage and for compiling the data in a timely manner. The Regional compilers, this year, were:

Region	Compiler	Region	Compiler
1	Jim Landau	6	Jeff Bolsinger
2	Robert Spahn	7	Gary Lee
3	Thomas Bell	8	Bryan Swift
4	Gail Kirch	9	Bill Ostrander
5	Bill Purcell	10	Ronald Borque

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IN MEMORIAM BERNA B. LINCOLN

Long-time Federation of NY State Bird Clubs and NY Ornithological Association leader Berna B. Lincoln passed away November, 2017 in Somers, NY. Her service to our organization dates from 1978 when the former Berna Weissman joined the Federation. Her first official position was as Recording Secretary in 1984, and over that decade she served as Vice-President and President. In 1990 she began a 10 year stint as Treasurer, followed by several terms as a director and chair of the Finance Committee.

However, these formal titles were only a part of Berna's contributions. Her behind-the-scenes work as circulation manager was likely the most time consuming and perhaps important job for NYSOA. Berna single-handedly kept membership records, received dues payments, prepared mailing lists and membership reminders, dealt with printers, fulfilled merchandise orders and

generally served as the interface between the organization and members. This effort required a sharp, organized, detail-oriented mind, which Berna fortunately possessed.

Other less visible tasks included proof-reading NYSOA publications including *The Kingbird* and *Bull's Birds of New York State*, published in 1998. She was named Associate to the Editor for the latter book.

Berna initiated the county listing project in 1992, intended to "stimulate more interest in birding, but especially to encourage birders to better appreciate New York's diverse birding habitats." County listing remains a popular activity today.

Berna had large roles in both NY State Breeding Bird Atlases, serving as a Regional coordinator in the 1980-85 survey, and on the Steering Committee and Records Review Committee for the second Atlas. County coordinator Barbara Butler noted, "She was tireless in attending to block assignments, reviewing reports, and encouraging better block coverage."

She also contributed some significant bird finds, including the first state record California Gull in 1978, the second state record Yellow-nosed Albatross in 1976, and a Sooty Shearwater on the Hudson River following passage of Hurricane David in 1980.

Former President Valerie Freer recalled that Berna and Stan Lincoln (also a large figure in Federation/NYSOA history) arrived at a 1991 Federation board meeting a little late and in a happy mood, and announced that they had just been married! As noted in Stan's memoriam in 2015, "Stan and Berna together were an even stronger presence and sustaining force for the organization. Their long time collaboration has served the organization well over many years. In 1998, Stan and Berna received the Gordon M. Meade Distinguished Service Award for their tireless efforts on behalf of the Federation and NYSOA. Stan and Berna took many birding trips around the country in their camping van, listing along the way."

Berna Lincoln was the institutional memory for NYSOA for many years and the organization would not and cannot be the same without her. We thank Berna for her love of birds, for her commitment to NYSOA and for her friendship. Our deepest condolences go to Berna's family.

Andrew Mason and Barbara Butler



REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

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After a snowless November, we were reminded in December 2017 what a harsh winter was like, with plenty of arctic air masses and lake effect snowfalls. The mean temperature was 25.4°F, 4.7° below normal, and the coldest December since 2000. Monthly precipitation at Buffalo-Niagara International Airport was 2.93", 0.96" less than usual, with 33.7" of snow, 6.3" more than usual, with 14 days with at least one inch of snowfall. The New Year started with a record low temperature on 1 January and then a roller coaster weather ride that included blizzard conditions on the 2nd, a sharp warmup that brought flooding from the rapid snowmelt, and then several cold fronts and snowfalls. The mean temperature was 24.2°, 0.7° below normal. The monthly precipitation was 3.73", 0.55" above normal, with 31.2" of snow, 5.9" above normal. Lake Erie reached the freezing temperature by 2 January. February's mean temperature was 31.9°, 5.6° above normal, with an average first two weeks and then very warm over the last two weeks of the month. The monthly precipitation was 3.61", 1.12" above normal, with 18.1" of snowfall, 0.8" above normal.

The harsh weather in December and January affected some CBCs and seemingly brought birder effort to less than usual. The warmup in the second half of February brought some of the first spring migrants, such as waterfowl, Killdeer, American Robins, and blackbirds, among others.

Among the many geese that came through in the latter half of February were more **Greater White-fronted Geese** than usual. There were multiple reports spanning four counties with a maximum of 12 geese in Hartland. There were two separate sightings of a **Ross's Goose** in late February, with one at Hartland and the other at Iroquois NWR. The passage of Tundra Swans was especially strong on 28 February, with counts in the hundreds from several locations and greater than 2,300 as viewed from Buffalo Harbor.

Nice finds among waterfowl included a **King Eider** at Fort Niagara SP in January and up to five **Harlequin Ducks** continuing above Niagara Falls as viewed from Three Sisters Islands. It has been a delight to have the "harleys" become so regular here in recent years. Alec Humann picked out a **Trumpeter Swan** among the many Tundra Swans around Beaver Island SP. It was then viewed throughout the winter.

At least three **Black Vultures** overwintered in the Lewiston area, which marks the seventh consecutive winter for this species in the area. Turkey Vultures were found in Lewiston as well as a few other locations, as it is becoming less rare during the winter season, even in a cold winter like this one.

The largest winter count of Bald Eagles was 18 near Dunkirk Harbor in February. An adult **Northern Goshawk** was photographed in Ellicottville on

New Year's Eve by Gary Hallick for the only winter report. There was a moderate presence of Rough-legged Hawks and an impressive number for wintering Red-shouldered Hawks, with sightings from many more locations than usual. David Crowe photographed a **Golden Eagle** in Wellsville on 21 February. It is hard to say if it was a wintering bird or moving north with the late February warm spell.

Paul Hess counted 21 **Sandhill Cranes** in Alabama in early December. He also had the first crane arrival, sighting two at Iroquois NWR on 27 February. There were single reports of Wilson's Snipe and **American Woodcock** in December, while woodcocks returned in late February for the second year in a row.

Gull numbers and diversity were unexceptional, at least for Niagara River standards. The cold conditions pushed most of the smaller gulls south by early in January. A juvenile **Black-legged Kittiwake** at Niagara Falls on 1 December was the only notable find.

Easily the most amazing find this season was an **Inca Dove** in Tom Simmons' Celoron backyard. The dove stuck around for just over one week and made infrequent feeder visits. If accepted by NYSARC, this will be a first State record. Inca Dove has developed a relatively light pattern of vagrancy to the Midwest, and there are also a few other records in the east.

A good number of **Snowy Owls** were around this winter, with reports from many locations and a maximum of four around Buffalo Harbor. **Short-eared Owls** were found at nine locations, most of which were locations of previous sightings. There was only one **Long-eared Owl** report.

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** took up winter residence near the nature center at Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve, allowing many birders to have a nice look. The species was found at three other locations as well. It was a decent winter for Yellow-bellied Sapsucker reports, with two to five per month. Sue Barth picked out a **Bohemian Waxwing** in a group of Cedar Waxwings in Boston on 21 January, which marks a rare sighting away from the Lake Ontario Plain. One at Fort Niagara SP in late December fit better within the usual context for sightings of this species.

Even in colder winters there are "half hardy" species to be found, perhaps in increasing numbers over time. Reports this winter included Eastern Towhee and Fox Sparrow both at four locations, three Chipping Sparrow reports, and one report each for Hermit Thrush, Gray Catbird, Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, and Eastern Meadowlark. Up to 22 Yellow-rumped Warblers were found on the Oak Orchard CBC, and they were present throughout the winter at Buckhorn Island SP. Up to ten Rusty Blackbirds also frequented the woods at Buckhorn Island SP this winter. A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, photographed visiting a feeder in Jamestown, was unusual for December.

Lapland Longspurs were found in a number of locations in low numbers, as well as being reported with a few counts between 30 and 50 on the Lake

Ontario Plain. Three American Pipits flying over Buffalo Harbor on 24 February were early arrivals.

It was not a good winter for finding northern finches, with just scattered reports of **Pine Siskins**, more so in the Southern Tier, and two reports of lone **Common Redpolls**.

CONTRIBUTORS

Wendy Akin, Sue Barth, Doug Beattie, David Crowe, Willie D'Anna, Elaine Dart, Gary Hallick, Carol Hardenburg, Paul Hess, Alec Humann, Tom Kerr, Josh Ketry, Chris Kundl, Twan Leenders, Pat Martin, Vincent Meyer, Celeste Morien, Jeff Reed, Jajeane Rose-Burney, Shelly Seidman, William Seleen, Debbie Sharon, Tom Simmons, Joel Strong, Kirk Vanstrom, Gale VerHague, Chris Wood.

ABBREVIATIONS

BeSP – Beaver I SP, ERIE; **BMAC** – Beaver Meadow Audubon Center, WYOM; **BufH** – Buffalo Harbor, ERIE; **BuSP** – Buckhorn I SP, ERIE; **BWWTP** – Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant, GENE; **ChauL** – Chautauqua L, CHAU; **DH** – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; **DHSP** – Devil's Hole SP, NIAG; **FLC** – Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, ERIE; **FNSP** – Fort Niagara SP, NIAG; **INWR** – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; **JAS** – Jamestown Audubon Society, CHAU; **LBSP** – Lakeside Beach SP, ORLE; **NF** – Niagara Falls, NIAG; **NFSP** – Niagara Falls SP, NIAG; **NR** – Niagara R; **PB** – Point Breeze, ORLE; **RWNP** – Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve, ERIE; **Tift NP** – Tift Nature Preserve, ERIE; **TBNP** – Times Beach NP, Buffalo, ERIE; **WoBSP** – Woodlawn Beach SP, ERIE.

WATERFOWL - VULTURES

Snow Goose: N Collins ERIE 3 Dec; BuSP 25 Dec; 4 Centerville ALLE 26 Dec; 2 Dunkirk CHAU 30 Dec; arr 3 Hartland NIAG 23 Feb; max 8 Batavia GENE 24 Feb.

Ross's Goose: Hartland NIAG 22 Feb (JS ph); INWR 28 Feb (PH, CM ph); has become annual as spring migrant.

Greater White-fronted Goose: 7, 10, 12 Hartland NIAG 22, 23, 27 Feb (WD, PM); 3 Yates ORLE 25-26 Feb; max 23 Shelby ORLE 27 Feb (DSh); Somerset NIAG 28 Feb; 7 Alexander GENE 28 Feb (ED, DB); 4 Attica WYOM (ED, DB, SB, TK) 28 Feb; excellent spring showing.

Cackling Goose: six Dec rpts; DH 23, 27 Jan (GV), only Jan rpt; max 18 Somerset NIAG 28 Feb (WD).

Mute Swan: singles reported from five locs.

Trumpeter Swan: BuSP 8-14 Dec, 8-28 Jan, 13, 15 Feb (AH), likely same bird; 6 Sheridan CHAU, DH 1-24 Feb (GV); only reports.

Tundra Swan: 210 BuSP 11 Dec; 131 NF 28 Jan; max 2328 BufH, 400 N Collins ERIE, 357 Attica WYOM, 325 Hartland NIAG, 310 BWWTP 28 Feb, big flight day.

Wood Duck: five Dec rpts; FLC 3, 15 Jan; Tift NP 28 Jan; arr 2 Newstead ERIE 1 Feb.

Gadwall: 52 Tift NP 1 Dec; 50 NFSP 7 Jan; arr 5 Pomfret CHAU, 14 INWR 21 Feb.

Am. Wigeon: 8 NFSP 6 Jan; max 97 INWR 21 Feb.

Am. Black Duck: max 30 NFSP 8 Jan.

N. Shoveler: max 23 BWWTP 9 Dec; BuSP 23 Jan, only Jan rpt; arr 3 DH 22 Feb.

N. Pintail: 1, 6 DH 8, 24 Jan; arr 8 Newstead ERIE 1 Feb; 285 INWR 21 Feb; max 420 Hartland NIAG 27 Feb.

Green-winged Teal: three Jan rpts; arr 5 Orchard Park ERIE, 2 INWR 21 Feb.

Canvasback: max 7500, 8700 BuSP 10, 24 Jan (AH); 3000 BeSP 28 Jan.

Redhead: 198 Ellery ChauL 2 Dec; max 500, 800 BufH 16 Dec, 10 Jan; 500 BuSP 23 Jan; 250 DH 22 Feb; 88 BWWT 28 Feb.

Ring-necked Duck: 102 BuSP 14 Dec; 3 Carlton ORLE 13 Jan; arr 4 Wilson NIAG 21 Feb; max 674 INWR 28 Feb.

Greater Scaup: max 3500 BufH 4 Feb.

Lesser Scaup: max 1023 Ellery ChauL 2 Dec (WS); 25 BufH 20 Jan; 50 BeSP 28 Jan; arr 86 BWWT 28 Feb.

King Eider: Buffalo NR 9 Dec (TK, SS); FNSP 20 Jan (CW); only reports.

Harlequin Duck: up to 5 NFSP thru 23 Feb, regular at this location in recent winters.

Surf Scoter: 7 FNSP 3 Dec; PB 17 Dec; BuSP 29 Dec; FNSP 17 Feb; only reports.

White-winged Scoter: max 142 FNSP 20 Jan.

Black Scoter: max 6 FNSP 3 Dec; BufH 6 Dec; only reports.

Long-tailed Duck: 275 Lewiston NR 20 Jan; max 300 BufH 26 Feb.

Bufflehead: 195 Ellery ChauL 2 Dec; max 200 BufH 10 Jan; arr 19 BWWT 28 Feb.

Com. Goldeneye: 132 Ellery ChauL 2 Dec; 675 Grand I NR 20 Jan; max 1200 BuSP 15 Feb.

Hooded Merganser: max 250 Mayville CHAU 11 Dec (WA).

Com. Merganser: 128 Cassadaga L CHAU 3 Dec; 500 Buffalo NR 11 Jan; arr 44 BWWT 22 Feb.

Red-breasted Merganser: 500 LBSP 3 Dec; max 600 Buffalo NR 9 Dec.

Ruddy Duck: max 96 BWWT 3 Dec; 5 N Collins ERIE 3 Dec; BuSP 1 Jan; BufH 22-30 Jan; Fredonia CHAU 5 Feb; arr 14 BWWT, N Collins ERIE 28 Feb.

Red-throated Loon: BeSP 20 Dec, only Dec rpt away from L Ontario; PB 11 Jan; BufH 4 Feb; max 7 Wilson NIAG 17 Feb.

Com. Loon: BufH 9, 11 Jan, 10 Feb; only reports beyond Dec.

Pied-billed Grebe: ChauL 8 Feb, only report beyond Dec.

Horned Grebe: max 21 DH 1 Dec; N Collins ERIE 27 Feb, only inland report.

Red-necked Grebe: Buffalo NR 1 Dec; Wilson NIAG 4 Dec; Grand Island NR 9 Dec; BuSP 9,

14 Dec, 8 Jan, 12 Feb; BufH 11 Jan; only reports.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: BufH 12, 17 Dec; 1, 1 WoBSP 28 Dec, 28 Jan; only reports.

Black Vulture: 8, 3 Lewiston NIAG 1 Dec, 1 Jan, overwintered for at least 7th consecutive year; Wilson NIAG 16 Dec; 2 Youngstown NIAG 26 Feb.

Turkey Vulture: 5 Wilson- Lake Plains CBC 16 Dec; 31 NF CBC 27 Dec; 2 Hamburg-E Aurora CBC 30 Dec; 5 Lewiston NIAG 5 Jan; arr Newfane NIAG 14 Feb.

HAWKS - LARIDS

Bald Eagle: 5 Caneadea ALLE 14 Jan; 7 Fredonia CHAU 18 Jan; max 18 DH 2 Feb (GV).

N. Goshawk: Ellicottville CATT 30, 31 Dec (GH), only report.

Red-shouldered Hawk: reported from four Dec, ten Jan, seven Feb locs; good winter season showing.

Rough-legged Hawk: max 4 Dayton CATT 3 Feb; moderate presence.

Golden Eagle: Wellsville ALLE 21 Feb (DC ph.), winter reports increasing near PA border.

Am. Coot: max 60 DH 24 Dec; arr BWWT 28 Feb.

Sandhill Crane: max 21 Alabama GENE 4 Dec (PH); arr 2 INWR 27 Feb.

Killdeer: three Dec reports; arr 3 Portland CHAU 20 Feb.

Wilson's Snipe: Ischua CATT 24 Dec (JR), rare in winter, only report.

Am. Woodcock: last Poland CHAU 29 Dec (VM); arr N Harmony CHAU 25 Feb (KV), early.

Black-legged Kittiwake: juv NF 1 Dec, only report.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 1000 FNPS 2 Dec, 1000 DHSP 8 Dec; mostly absent on NR by early January.

Little Gull: NFSP 3 Dec; DH 19 Dec; Lewiston NR 1 Jan; few reports.

Iceland Gull: max 9 DHSP 1 Feb; 6 BufH 27 Feb; relatively low numbers.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 10 FNPS 17 Jan; relatively low numbers for recent years.

Glaucous Gull: 3 NFSP 17 Jan; max 4 BufH 10 Feb; not reported in high numbers.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 250 DH 18 Jan (GV); 130 BeSP 16 Feb.

PIGEONS – PARROTS

INCA DOVE: Celoron CHAU 4-12 Dec (TS! NYSARC), remarkable feeder visitor, State first if accepted by NYSARC, *intro*.

Snowy Owl: widespread reports; max 7 BuFH 5 Dec.

Long-eared Owl: Barre ORLE 29 Dec, only report.

Short-eared Owl: 2 Bethany GENE 7, 14 Dec; 2, 4, 4 Shelby ORLE 8 Dec, 13 Jan, 24 Feb; 2, 1 Dunkirk Airport CHAU 9, 18 Dec, 5 Jan; Ellery CHAU 17 Dec; max 6 Royaltown NIAG 22 Dec; 4 INWR 28 Dec; Kiantone CHAU 9 Jan; Hartland NIAG 9 Jan; Lockport NIAG 11 Jan.

Red-headed Woodpecker: FNSP thru 1 Jan; RWNP 31 Dec thru; Sturgeon Pt ERIE 9 Jan thru; Carlton ORLE 12 Jan; only reports.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: five Dec rep; four Jan rep; two Feb rep; increasingly reported in winter.

Merlin: reported from 10 or more loc each month.

Peregrine Falcon: increasingly reported.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: moderate to good showing this winter.

Com. Raven: continue increasing rep in northern portion; no longer rare anywhere in Reg.

Horned Lark: max 225 Oakfield GENE 15 Dec.

Winter Wren: 7 NF CBC 27 Dec; only three other Dec rep.

Hermit Thrush: St. Bonaventure CBC 17 Dec, only report.

Am. Robin: max 300 BeSP 18 Feb.

Gray Catbird: Tift NP 28 Feb, only report.

Am. Pipit: arr 3 BuFH 24 Feb (JRB), early.

Bohemian Waxwing: FNSP 27, 28 Dec (JK); Boston ERIE 21 Jan (SB), rare away from L Ontario.

Cedar Waxwing: uncommon this winter.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: 10 Yates ORLE 24 Dec; 3 Wellsville ALLE 27 Dec; max 50 Somerset NIAG (SS, JK) 28 Dec; 33 Porter NIAG 14 Feb (DSh); reported from four other loc in small numbers.

Snow Bunting: 300 Wilson NIAG 16 Dec; max 400 INWR 22 Dec; 294 Independence ALLE 25 Dec; 300 Porter NIAG 1 Jan; 300 Carlton ORLE 25 Jan; 250 Barre ORLE 29 Jan.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 22 Oak Orchard CBC 28 Dec; three other Dec rep; 1-3, 12 BuSP 1-30 Jan, 15 Feb (AH, CK).

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

E. Towhee: Ellery CHAU 16, 31 Dec; 2 Porter NIAG 27 Dec; Colden ERIE 1 Jan; Lockport NIAG 8, 16 Jan; only reports.

Chipping Sparrow: BuSP 9 Dec; Orangeville WYOM 23, 24 Dec; Portland CHAU 16-26 Feb (CH), early arrival or wintering?

Field Sparrow: Dunkirk Airport CHAU 27, 29 Dec, only report.

Savannah Sparrow: 3 Batavia GENE 9 Dec (DB), only report.

Fox Sparrow: RWNP 11 Dec; JAS 17 Dec; Gerry CHAU 17 Dec; Gaines ORLE 16 Jan; not as widespread as previous winter.

Swamp Sparrow: BuSP 1 Jan; TBNP 28 Feb; only reports beyond Dec.

White-crowned Sparrow: max 7, 7 Portland CHAU 10 Dec, 16 Feb.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK (R1): Jamestown CHAU 17 Dec (TL ph.), rare in winter.

Red-winged Blackbird: 32, 17 Tonawanda ERIE 17 Dec, 31 Jan; 75 Lockport NIAG 4 Feb; arrived in large numbers during late Feb warmup.

E. Meadowlark: Shelby ORLE 17 Jan (CM), rare in mid-winter.

Rusty Blackbird: up to 10 wintered BuSP thru; 27 Ellicott CHAU, JAS 17 Dec; only reports.

Com. Grackle: 11 loc Dec and Jan, more than usual; arrived in Feb warmup.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 350, 286 Alabama GENE 15, 22 Dec; 18 Lancaster ERIE 10 Jan; arrived in Feb warmup.

Purple Finch: max 17 Jamestown CHAU 17 Dec; 14 Wellsville ALLE 8 Feb.

Com. Redpoll: Orangeville WYOM 4 Dec; Portland CHAU 22 Feb; only reports.

Pine Siskin: 17 Orangeville WYOM 24 Dec; 23 Gerry CHAU 30 Dec; 18 Bolivar ALLE 13 Jan; 15 Whitesville ALLE 17 Jan; 31 N Harmony CHAU 11 Feb; 17 Lakewood CHAU 18 Feb; max 37 BMAC 22 Feb; not widespread this winter.

REGION 2—GENESEE

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A see-saw winter, with periods of cold and substantial snowfall followed by warmth and melting back to bare ground and even green grass. This provided variable and interesting weather. Snow depth on the ground was never great for long this winter. December started with six days above normal, then an arctic surge to below freezing every night through mid-month, so that by Christmas Bird Count (CBC) time most bays and ponds were totally frozen. A brief thaw 18-23 December was followed by snow 23-25 December and a white Christmas. Temperatures averaged 26.0°F, 4.8° below normal, for the coldest December since 2000. Precipitation was 2.24", 0.39" below normal, but snowfall added up to 34.7", 12.9" above normal. There were 11 days with 1" or more snowfall and six lake effect snow events, bringing snowfall to points east and southeast of Lake Ontario to well above the official total.

January continued the cold of December through the first week, then jumped to well above normal. Arctic cold and snow followed from 12-18 January, then a longer warm stretch lasting to month's end. Temperatures averaged 25.0°, 0.3° above normal. Records were set in both directions, with a record low high of 5° on the 5th and a record high low of 44° on the 11th followed by a record high of 60° on the 12th. Precipitation totaled 3.11", 0.72" above normal, with 32.9" of snowfall, 4.7" above normal. But things varied, with 2-3" of snow each day 4-6 January, heavy rain 11-12 January, then cold and 12.8" of snow on 13 January. After that, < 1" of snow until 6.7" from 29-30 January.

February was again WARM, the second warmest on record following last year's warmest. Temperatures averaged 33.6°, 7.2° above normal. Record highs were set at 71° on the 20th, 67° on the 21st, and 64° on the 28th. There was also a record high low on the 20th. This also included a cold start for the first week and a half of the month. Precipitation totaled 2.15", 0.20" above normal, with snowfall 15.7", 5.8" below normal. The snow arrived in three events over 6-7 and 9-10 February, with only 0.8" over the rest of the month. There was some rain or snow on all but three days of the month, but the last half of the month brought a preview taste of spring.

Records in general suggest strong effects from the weather, in the CBCs and waterfowl count to half hardies dropping from 16 species in December to ten in January then to seven in February. February brought a clear early spring movement starting on about the 18th, with 20 February and after, and especially 28 February, bringing many early arrivals. The month's eBird downloads were about 17,111 for December, 27,816 for January, and 19,348 in February for a total of 64,275 for the season. The January total is boosted by birders starting

their new year-lists and February by the Great Backyard Bird Count, while in December many of the CBC records are not entered into eBird. Data from listservs, the various counts, and private contributions are included in this summary.

The three local CBCs provided an illustration of weather effects. After a short warm spell, early December's cold froze most of the bays, ponds, and smaller lakes. Then, on the specific dates, first we had heavy snow in the hills south of Rochester on 16 December for the Letchworth-Silver Lake CBC. Observer turnout was reduced, but those out worked hard, especially compiler Douglas Bassett, and 66 species were tallied, with five Green-winged Teal as a new species and 12 Cackling Geese and 18 Gadwall as new high counts. The next day, the Rochester CBC saw better weather, but the lack of open water resulted in a low average count of 91 species, with two more added during the count week. Record highs were set for King Eider (2), Red-breasted Merganser (2165), Red-necked Grebe (10), Bald Eagle (7), Snowy Owl (5), Red-bellied Woodpecker (192), and Yellow-rumped Warbler (28). However the overall number of individuals dropped substantially when the usual flight of American Crows to roost in the circle could not be located. A week later back in the Finger Lakes area south of Rochester, the Conesus-Hemlock CBC on 23 December started with steady light rain increasing through the morning, changing briefly to freezing rain, then to steady snow for the afternoon. Still observers turned up a high average 87 species, with five more added during count week. A House Wren coming to a feeder was new for the count, and record highs were set for Wood Duck (5) and Northern Shoveler (3). On into January, again early cold closed up all but the largest lakes, and with waterfowl season still open, snow, cold, and wind resulted in the lowest total counted in 30 years, only 12,885 individuals, though 29 species was still decent variety.

Moving on to working through the various families, we start with all the really expected waterfowl reported, though numbers were low through December and January and on until a burst of arrivals in February's taste of early spring. Still, there were some good counts early, with many Cackling Geese in December, good swan counts, several good counts for Long-tailed Duck and Red-breasted Merganser, and a couple of good Red-necked Grebe counts in early December. King Eider was present again through most of the season, Harlequin Duck in December through early January, and female Barrow's Goldeneye near Rochester in January and at Sodus Point in February. Late February brought a large influx of waterfowl, mostly to the Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area (NMWMA) in southern Wayne County but also elsewhere, with good numbers of Greater White-fronted Goose, large numbers of Snow Goose, Ross's Goose, some large puddle duck numbers, and record early arrival dates for Wood Duck and Eurasian Wigeon. Diversity remained low. Other interesting waterbird notes included few loons and Double-crested Cormorant on Irondequoit Bay, with good monthly maxima for winter of 23, 9, and 32 for the three months, respectively. Those cormorants were joined

by the Region's ~21st **Great Cormorant** record, an immature found at the old Newport House marina on Irondequoit Bay on 30 December by Candy Giles and Kim Hartquist and seen there daily until 11 January and again on 17 January, and afterward from 19-28 January at Sodus Point, Wayne County. 46 Great Blue Herons in a farm field near Caledonia on 9 December was a surprise for Mike Wasilco. Afterwards numbers seemed low except for occasional good counts at the Caledonia Fish Hatchery.

The Braddock Bay hawkwatch started on 27 February, with this year's official counter Greg Lawrence. The 27th brought the first Black Vulture of the year, and, with a good migration day on the 28th, the watch tallied a good 167 raptors in those two early days. Some good counts were also noted for other early migrants, including waterfowl, gulls, Killdeer, and two Common Ravens. Bald Eagle numbers were good all season in many areas but especially at Irondequoit Bay, where up to 28 individuals were counted from single points on several days and a rare-for-winter immature Golden Eagle was reported off and on through most of the season. Another interesting raptor was a Red-shouldered Hawk found at Hogan Point in Burger Park on 1 January by Dave Tetlow and seen by many there all month. Northern Goshawk was reported only on 10 December and 3 January. Rough-legged Hawk numbers were scattered and moderate through the season. The regular falcons saw American Kestrel relatively scarce through the season and Merlin and Peregrine Falcon in numbers typical of recent winters. The bird of the season was the Region's first **Crested Caracara** not even seen by any birders but captured on a trailcam at the home of Paul McNamara in the Town of Ontario in Wayne County on 1 February.

This season, there were no reports of the usual Virginia Rail from Mendon Ponds Park or elsewhere, and American Coot numbers were low. Sandhill Crane lingered in record high numbers for our Region, with up to 107 in the NMWMA along Armitage Road, Wayne County on 2-3 December, though even higher counts were tallied nearby in Region 3. Nine cranes were seen near the Village of Honeoye on the Conesus-Hemlock CBC on 23 December, then three were seen at Taylor Marsh nearby on 18 February, one each at three locations in the NMWMA on 24-28 February, and five in the Town of Wolcott, Wayne County on 28 February.

Shorebirds were scarce, as in most years in winter. Killdeer lingered to 9 December and arrived for spring at a record early date of 20 February in both West Walworth, Wayne County, found by Mike Gullo, and Nations Road, Livingston County, found by Nick Kachala. Wilson's Snipe on 26 December and 12 January were at late dates, and American Woodcock was first reported at Hogan Point on 23 February by Dave Tetlow and then in the NMWMA area on 28 February, both early but not unprecedented dates.

An unusually long-staying immature Black-legged Kittiwake from 11-21 December at Sodus Point provided a good chance for many to see and photograph the species. It is usually seen in the Region as individuals passing

along the south shore of Lake Ontario. Bonaparte's Gull peaked at an unusually low maximum of 70 on 9 December, and after that there was only one report of five at West Port Bay, Wayne County on 30 January. With few Bonaparte's around, it is no surprise that one Little Gull on 27 January at Sodus Point was the only other rarer small gull reported. There were good numbers of our regular winter gulls—Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, and Glaucous. These were noted in numbers at Irondequoit Bay, the piers at the Genesee River mouth, Braddock Bay, and the Mill Seat Landfill in the Town of Riga. The February thaw exposed a major fish die-off in Irondequoit Bay, and gulls congregated there, with maxima there later in the month of 4600 Herring, 11 Iceland, three Lesser Black-backed, five Glaucous, and 272 Great Black-backed Gulls, the latter counted by Greg Lawrence on 24 February. Interestingly, no longer considered a species, only one report appeared as Iceland (Thayer's) Gull seen and photographed by Andy Guthrie at the end of East Manitou Road on 28 January.

Moving on to the non-passerine landbirds, an elusive Eurasian Collared-Dove at the Greenwell Farm in the Town of Hamlin was only reported on 17 and 30 December and 3 January. This year we have more than the usual interesting owl news. There was a good total of 86 Eastern Screech-Owls on the Rochester CBC and even 26 on the Conesus-Hemlock CBC, which is due mainly to only very light rain for those out in the 3 AM time frame. A major Snowy Owl invasion can be summarized in 43+ individuals at 28+ locations in December, 40+ at 26+ in January, and 21+ at 20+ in February. The usual DEC Short-eared Owl surveys were conducted biweekly when weather allowed and produced a steady 1.5-2.0 birds per site surveyed through the season, a bit lower than last year later in the season. In January, all observers reported about 24 Short-eared Owls from 12 locations. Long-eared Owl is rarely reported in winter and especially other than on CBCs, so two reports from the Nunda area, Livingston County on 11 January and 20 February were interesting. Similarly for a N. Saw-whet Owl in the Town of York, Livingston County, seen and heard by Jim Kimball on 20 February. N. Saw-whet Owls were located on 3, 8, 20, 25-26, and 29 December in the usual Owl Woods area along Manitou Beach Road, and the spring owl survey there began in late February and located two on 26 February and one on the 27th. Belted Kingfisher is often scarce in this season, so ten at eight locations in January was good, with still eight in seven locations in February. Red-headed Woodpecker was found all winter in the usual locations in Hamlin Beach State Park, with the maximum six there on 3 December. The only other report was one in Albion, Orleans County on 12 January. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker could be the "poster child" for this winter's effect on half hardies—14 at 10 locations in December, seven at seven locations in January, and only two reports in February.

After a warm fall and a warm start to very early December, the list and numbers of half-hardy lingerers were high, 16 species, including: Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallow, House Wren, Winter Wren, Marsh Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Gray Catbird, American Pipit, Eastern Towhee,

Chipping Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, and Rusty Blackbird. Details may be found in the species section. By January, the list was down to nine species, but a Fox Sparrow found in Ellison Park, Town of Penfield by Lauri Mattle and Jim Miles on 20 and 21 January was added. By February, numbers of all such species had dropped, and the list of half-hardies was down to seven species, with Fox Sparrow still present to 10 February and a Tree Swallow, likely a migrant, reported with the big movement on 28 February. Generally, numbers were low for typical winter species, with examples of peaks: only 160 American Robins in February (only 80 in the earlier months), 95 Cedar Waxwings, and the only big blackbird counts totaling 3000 each of Red-winged Blackbird and Common Grackle on Wiley Road in the NMWMA by Deborah Dohne with the migration on 28 February. White-crowned Sparrow counts were high, with maxima of 68 on Cook Road, Town of Hamlin on 1 January by Andy Guthrie.

The possible winter irruptives were scarce, though Northern Shrike was present all season with 13-17 individuals reported each month. Fish Crow continues as a localized resident, with a maximum of 19 near North Gate Plaza in the Town of Greece on 9 January by Dave Tetlow and regular reports from Bob Dobson, a nearby resident. Red-breasted Nuthatch had very few double digit reports, though it would take quite a bit of work to clearly separate the effects of low numbers from reports at many separate sites versus larger areas. The only Bohemian Waxwing was one seen in Hamlin Beach SP by Dave Tetlow on 10 January. The only real passerine rarity reported was a male Yellow-headed Blackbird seen on Huston Road in the Nations Road area, Livingston County on 27 January. Large quantities of spruce cones gave hope to arrival of winter finches, but nothing really materialized beyond some Common Redpolls and Pine Siskins, with modest peaks in January, and a lone Evening Grosbeak in December.

Species totals for the months and their 10-year averages were: December – 136 (130.5), January – 129 (126.3), and February – 128 (116.0). Species of special note included: Greater White-fronted Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, King Eider, Harlequin Duck, Barrow's Goldeneye, **Great Cormorant**, Golden Eagle, Sandhill Crane, Black-legged Kittiwake, Little Gull, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Snowy Owl, Long-eared Owl, **Crested Caracara**, Orange-crowned Warbler, Fox Sparrow, and Yellow-headed Blackbird.

Time for another brief reminder touching on why one might want some summary when there is the eBird database available. A simple question like "How many Bald Eagles were in the Region in January?" is very difficult to answer. The eBird download has 350 "records" = lines, if I was totally accurate in eliminating the data from parts of counties not in Region 2. Next, start by just looking at Irondequoit Bay. Over the month there were 219 "records" from 13 different named sites around the Bay, though some of the sites are essentially the same, just assigned different names. The highest number of individual Bald Eagles seen at one time from one spot was 28, with several 27s. So how many

Bald Eagles were seen on just this Bay? Trying to work through even this one species takes quite a bit of time and the best I could come up with is about 91 birds? Clearly almost anyone else working through this will make different judgment calls and arrive at a different number. It is not an exact process, but without a try we have no idea of the number from just looking at the raw data. Gathering lots of data is “good”, but without some effort at trying to analyze it, it is not very useful and maybe even confusing.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BB – Braddock Bay, T Greece, MONR; **BB - HW** – at or from Braddock Bay hawkwatch; **CHCBC** – Conesus-Hemlock CBC 23 Dec; **CL** – Conesus L, LIVI; **DEP** – Durand-Eastman P, MONR; **G** – T Greece; **H** – T Hamlin, MONR; **HB** – Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; **IBO** – Irondequoit Bay Outlet, MONR; **IB - NH** – Irondequoit Bay near Newport House Marina, MONR; **IB - S** – Irondequoit Bay south end, including LaSalle Landing P area; **LSLCBC** – Letchworth-Silver L CBC on 16 Dec; **MP** – Mendon Pond P, MONR; **NMWMA** – Northern Montezuma WMA, T Savannah, WAYN; **NMWMA (AR)** – north side of Armitage Rd; **NMWMA (CR)** – Carnecross Rd area flooded fields; **NMWMA (MR)** – Morgan Rd marshes area; **NMWMA (SM)** – Savannah mucklands area along Rt 31 SE of Savannah; **NMWMA (VDS)** – woods and wetlands along Van Dyne Spoor; **RCBC** – Rochester CBC on 17 Dec; **SBotP** – Sandy Bottom P, T Honeoye, ONTA; **SPt** – Sodus Pt., WAYN; **TCEA** – Twin Cedars Environmental Area at Avon DEC offices; **WWTP** – waste water treatment plant; **WP** – Webster P, MONR.

WATERFOWL – VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: arr 6-8 BB 15-17 Feb (8 obs); IB – LaSalle landing 18 Feb (PMar); 2 T Leicester, LIVI 24 Feb (RSt); 6-11 NMWMA (CR) 24 Feb (14 obs); 9 BB- HW 27 Feb (GL, *et.al.*); 2 T Webster 28 Feb (JiM, JWi).

Snow Goose: 200 NMWMA (CR) 5 Dec; last 11 Lyons WAYN 21 Jan (DWh, DDo); arr 1, 30, 75 NMWMA (3 loc) 20 Feb; max 50,000 NMWMA (Railroad Rd) 21 Feb (KGa); 15000-20000 Wiley Rd, T Savannah 28 Feb (DoC, DDo).

Ross's Goose: arr 2 NMWMA (CR) 24 Feb (GD); HB 25 Feb (GL); 3 NMWMA (SM) 26 Feb (W&MR); NMWMA (VDS) 27 Feb (GD).

Cackling Goose: 18 rep, 39 ind 12 loc 1-28 Dec; max 15 TCEA 1 Dec (MW); 2 T Caledonia 10 Jan (MW), only Jan rep; 18 rep, 31 ind 14 loc 15F-28 Feb; 10 BB-HW 28 Feb.

Canada Goose: max 10395 BB-HW 28 Feb (GL, *et.al.*).

Mute Swan: max 207 IB-N 17 Jan (JBo, RSp). **Trumpeter Swan:** 25 NMWMA (CR) 2 Dec; 18 NMWMA (T Savanah) 15 Jan; max 28 NMWMA (VDS) 21 Feb (W&MR).

Tundra Swan: 63 CL 20 Dec; max 327 BB-HW 28 Feb (GL, *et.al.*); 234 MP 28 Feb (PMar); 308 NMWMA (CR) 28 Feb (GD).

Wood Duck: 5 CHCBC 23 Dec (JK, AC), CBC record high; Hemlock L 1 Jan; Van Lare WWTP, ROCH 8 Jan; arr 2 Kings Bend P, T Pittsford 18 Feb (BCar), Reg record early.

Gadwall: max 128 Round Pd Greece 3 Dec (CW); 100 NMWMA (CR) 25 Feb (GL, LM, JiM); 94 BB-HW 28 Feb (GL, *et.al.*), good counts.

Eurasian Wigeon: arr 3 m NMWMA (CR) **24 Feb** (GD), record early; 1-2 NMWMA (CR) **24F**-28 Feb (13+ obs).

Am. Wigeon: max 54 Round Pd Greece 3 Dec (CW); arr 1, 2 BB, 16 Feb (AGu, BriM); max 1200 NMWMA (CR) 25 Feb (JGK).

Am. Black Duck: max 400 NMWMA (CR) 25 Feb (JMcGo).

Mallard: max 800 NMWMA (CR) 25 Feb (JMcGo).

Nations Rd IBA 15 Jan (MW); relatively scarce all season.

N. Shoveler: 1 Caledonia Fish Hatchery 2 Jan (DTe), scarce in winter; arr 1-5 sev loc 21 Feb, early.

N. Pintail: 3-4 Caledonia Fish Hatchery 1-2 Feb (R&SS, DTe); BB 15 Feb (sev), early; 1500 NMWMA (SM) 21 Feb 21 Feb (MG, *et al.*); max 5000 NMWMA (CR) 25 Feb (JMcGo), high count.

Green-winged Teal: 5 Silver L 23 Dec (DB), new CHCBC; 11 Caledonia Fish Hatchery 2 Jan (DTe), scarce in winter; arr 3 Kings Bend P, T Pittsford 16 Feb (PMar), early.

Canvasback: many reports, but most 1-2 ind; max 17 BB 21 Feb.

Redhead: max 3000 CL 9, 20 Dec; 580 IB – N 4 Feb, later season peak with CL mostly frozen.

Ring-necked Duck: 150 Hemlock L 1 Jan, in small open spot; max 200 NMWMA (CR) 23 Feb, low max.

Greater Scaup: max 550 SPT 21 Jan, low max.

Lesser Scaup: max 100 IB – N 18 Dec, low max.

King Eider: 1 imm m off sites from BB to IB on S shore of lake Ontario 9, 18, 30 Dec, 7-10, 21, 28 Jan, 4-11 Feb, many obs & ph; 1 f off Irondequoit & Webster 18, 21 Dec; 1 imm m+5 f mouth of Genesee R 9-12 Jan; 1 imm m SPT 27-29 Jan, 1-6 Jan.

Harlequin Duck: 1 f IBO 17, 24 Dec, 4 Jan (JiM, C&JG, KSc, NM); 2 m West Port Bay WAYN 15, 21 Dec (W&MR).

White-winged Scoter: max 195 off sand Bar P, Webster 21 Dec, low; generally scarce.

Black Scoter: max 33 off E. Manitou Rd, Greece 2 Dec.

Long-tailed Duck: 974 off Irondequoit 9 Dec; max 1500 off E. Manitou, Greece 24 Jan; 620 off Rigney Bluff, Greece 21 Feb; good monthly peaks.

Bufflehead: max 150 CL 9 Dec (TB, CG, KSu).

Com. Goldeneye: max 500 IBO 20 Jan (TL).

Barrow's Goldeneye: arr 1 f off E. Manitou Rd, Greece 1 Jan (KH, PMar, 10 oth obs) & 5 oth loc 1, 14, 25-29 Jan (8 obs); 1 f SPT 3-12 Feb (JMcGo, 16+ oth obs).

Hooded Merganser: max 245 CL 21 Dec (MW).

Com. Merganser: max 678 IB 17 Jan (JBo, RSp); 600 IB – N 17 Feb (RSp).

Red-breasted Merganser: max 2375 B. Forman P, Pultneyville WAYN 2 Dec (JeB, CW); 2195 HB 3 Dec (JeB, CW, AGu).

Ruddy Duck: max 7 Round Pd, Greece 3 Dec, scarce this winter.

Red-throated Loon: max 24 Sandbar P, Webster 2 Dec.

Com. Loon: max 26 SPT 2 Dec.

Horned Grebe: max 34 B. Forman P, Pultneyville WAYN 2 Dec (JeB, CW), low max.

Red-necked Grebe: 732 HB 2 Dec (AGu); max 866 HB 9 Dec (AKr, GL); good counts; IBO 9-23 Jan (KGr, mob); 5 HB 18 Feb (BCar, AGu); scarce midwinter.

Double-crested Cormorant: 23 IB – NH 1 Dec (JiM); 9 IB – NH 3 Jan (DSH); max 32 G – Rigney Bluff 21 Feb (KG); good numbers for winter.

GREAT CORMORANT: 1 imm IB (mostly at Newport House marina) 30 Dec – 11, 17 Jan (CG, KH, 75+ oth obs, many ph), 21st Reg record; 1 imm SPT 19-28 Jan (MG, 30+ oth obs, ph), same individual.

Great Blue Heron: max 46 T Caledonia 9 Dec (MW), flock in the corner of a cornfield.

BLACK VULTURE (R2): arr BB - HW 27 Feb (AGu, GL, *et al.*), early.

Turkey Vulture: 34 Pittsford 6 Dec; 32 T Riga 29 Jan; max 67 BB – HW 28 Feb.

HAWKS – LARIDS

Bald Eagle: approx. 72 ind Dec; 350 lines eBird Jan; max single location 28 IB 11 Jan (PMar, AP); 172 lines eBird Feb.

N. Goshawk: 1 imm BB 10 Dec (CW, AGu); 1 T Gates 3 Jan (LBr); now scarce any time.

Red-shouldered Hawk: singles 5 loc LIVI Jan (KC, TB); 1 G – Hogan Pt 1-31 Jan (DTe, mob), interesting loc; ~ 9 ind 3 loc Feb; max 5 BB – HW 28 Feb.

Rough-legged Hawk: ~ 13 ind 11 loc 2-27 Dec; ~ 24 ind 17 loc Jan; ~ 24 ind 16 loc Feb; max 8 BB (HW) 27 Feb (MT).

Golden Eagle: 1 imm IB 5, 17, 30-31 Dec, all Jan & 4-20 Feb (mob); rare in winter.

Virginia Rail: no reports.

Am. Coot: max 60 CL 9 Dec, low.

Sandhill Crane: max 107, 105 NMWMA (AR) 2, 3 Dec (JL, DNu); 84, 90 NMWMA (SM) 5 Dec (MG, W&MR); 9 CHCBC –

Honeoye Crk WM 23 Dec (KK, MM, WS), CBC record high; 3 Taylor Marsh ONTA 18 Feb (KK); 1 NMWMA (3 loc) 24-28 Feb (5 obs); 5 T Wolcott WAYN 28 Feb (W&MR).

Killdeer: last T Livonia LIVI 9 Dec (KK); arr Nations Rd IBA (NK) & near West Walworth WAYN (MG) **20 Feb**, record early.

Wilson's Snipe: last NMWMA (MR) 26 Dec (BCar), late; T Ogden MONR 12 Jan (DTe), scarce midwinter.

Am. Woodcock: arr G – Hogan Pt **23 Feb** (DTe), early; NMWMA (Wright Rd) 28 Feb (KG), early.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (R2): 1 imm SPT 11-21 Dec (JWi, 27+oth obs, many ph), unusually long staying.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 70 IB-S 9 Dec, low max; last 5 West Port Bay WAYN 30 Jan (W&MR).

Little Gull: 1 ad SPT 27 Jan (BP), only rep.

Ring-billed Gull: max 2150 G - Salmon Crk 3 Dec.

Herring Gull: 3000 Mill Seat Landfill, T Riga 22 Dec; max 4600 IB 24 Feb (GL).

Iceland Gull: ~ 24 ind 10 loc Dec; max 11 Millseat Landfill, T Riga 29 Dec (AGu); ~ 43 ind 18 loc 2-27 Jan; 9 BB 27 Jan (AGu); ~ 37+ ind 18 loc Feb; max 11 IB 24 Feb (GL).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: ~ 22 ind 13 loc Dec; max 6 Mill Seat Landfill, T Riga 22 Dec (Brim); 10 ind 7 loc 7-28 Jan; ~ 23+ ind 15 loc Feb.

Glaucous Gull: ~ 15 ind 8 loc 2-29 Dec; max 7 Mill Seat Landfill, T Riga 29 Dec (AGu); ~ 26 ind 16 loc 2-27 Jan; ~ 16 ind 9 loc 4-26 Feb.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 272 IB 24 Feb (GL), high count.

PIGEONS – PARROTS

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: Greenwell farm, Hamlin 17, 30 Dec, 3 Jan (MG, JiM, AGu), site of most records recent yrs

E. Screech-Owl: 86 RCBC 17 Dec; 26 CHCBC 23 Dec, in spite of light rain.

Snowy Owl: ~ 43 ind 28+ loc Dec; ~ 125 rep, 40+ ind 26+ loc Jan; 21+ ind 20+ loc Feb.

Long-eared Owl: Dalton Rd, T Nunda LIVI 11 Jan (S&TG); T Nunda 20 Feb (JK); few rep in winter.

Short-eared Owl: 6 Nations Rd IBAT Avon 10 Dec; ~ 24 ind 12 loc Jan; 9 Nations Rd IBA 10, 14 Jan; max 12 Nations Rd IBA 2 Feb (CGo).

N. Saw-whet Owl: singles Owl Woods, Manitou 3, 8, 20, 25-26, 29 Dec (AGu, CW, DHo, CGI, LH, GL, JOD), ph, usually few rep

in Dec; T York, LIVI 20 Feb (JK), seen & heard; arr 2 Owl Woods, Manitou 26 Feb (8+ obs), 1 still seen next day.

Red-headed Woodpecker: max 6 HB 3 Dec (JeB, AGu, CW, JD), present in park most winters, 1-4 there rest of season; Carlton T P ORLE 12 Jan (DBe), only other rep.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: total ~ 14 ind 14 loc 3-31 Dec; 7 ind 7 loc Jan; 3 ind 2 loc 2-13 Feb; good numbers for winter.

CRESTED CARACARA: T Ontario WAYN 1 Feb, 1st Reg record, captured on trailcam at home of Paul McNamara.

Am. Kestrel: totals - 17 in Dec, 14 in Jan, and 12 in Feb; slow decrease thru.

Merlin: totals – 15 in Dec, 27 in Jan, and 14 in Feb; good for winter.

Peregrine Falcon: totals – 11 in Dec, 11 in Jan, and 13 in Feb; max 3 IB – NH 8 Jan, seen by many observing Great Cormorant.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Phoebe: HB 9 Dec (LoK, AL, GL), rare in winter.

N. Shrike: ~ 13 ind 10 loc Dec; ~ 21 ind 17 loc Jan; ~ 13 ind 11 loc 2-23 Feb.

Am. Crow: max 700 Lehigh Station Rd, T Henrietta 1 Feb, winter roost not located and counted this year.

FISH CROW (R2): max 19 G - Northgate Plaza 9 Feb (DTe), now the peak wintering location.

Horned Lark: max 250 H - Moscow Rd 30 Dec; 200 H – West Fork 14 Jan; good counts.

Tree Swallow: last 7 West Port Bay WAYN 8 Dec (W&MR), late; arr NMWMA (CR) 28 Feb (JWi), early.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 16 HB 10 Jan, few double digit counts all winter.

HOUSE WREN (R2): T Richmond, ONTA (F&EJ), at feeder, 1st for CHCBC, record late.

Winter Wren: 26+ ind 13 loc 2-29 Dec; 12 ind 11 loc Jan; 5+ ind 5 loc 3-21 Feb.

Marsh Wren: total 6 ind 5 loc 2-10 Dec.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: total 64 ind 22+ loc Jan, decent number.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: MP 27 Dec (CGo); Flint Hill Cemetery MONR 20 Jan (RSt); scarce in winter.

Hermit Thrush: 8 ind 4 loc 8-30 Dec; 3; 1 WP 20; 21 Jan; MP 1, 9 Feb, good winter numbers.

Am. Robin: Lehigh Valley Trail, T Rush 14 Feb, low max.

Gray Catbird: 5 ind 3 loc 1-23 Dec; BB 3 Jan (R&SS); Beechwood SP WAYN 8 Jan (MG); G

11 Jan (DTe); Manitou – Owl Woods 17 Feb (AGa); scarce in winter.

Am. Pipit: last Reed Rd ONTA 24 Dec (BH, ph).

Bohemian Waxwing: HB 10 Jan (DTe), only report.

Cedar Waxwing: max 95 HB 3 Dec, low numbers this winter.

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: max 15 H 13 Feb, low max, again scarce all season.

Snow Bunting: max 500 H – Moscow Rd 14 Jan (JiM, LM); 300 H 11 Feb (AGu).

Orange-crowned Warbler: G – Church Trail 2, 9 Dec (CW, JeB).

Com. Yellowthroat: Conesus Inlet 6 Dec (MW).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 14 G – Church Trail 10 Dec (AGu, CW); 12 G – Beatty Pt 17 Dec (GL); 11 oth rep, 6 oth ind 6 loc 3-23 Dec; 13 ind 5 loc 2-29 Jan; 10 G – Church Trail 10 Jan (GL), max for month; 2 G – Church Trail 3 Feb (AGu); 2 Gosnell Big Woods, Webster 11 Feb (RN); 4 Caledonia Fish Hatchery 17 Feb (RSt); good showing for winter.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

E. Towhee: G – Church Trail 2 Dec (CW); WP 9 Dec (RSp).

Am. Tree Sparrow: max 80 WAYN 8 Jan, low.

Chipping Sparrow: T Livonia LIVI 22 Dec (J&BV); T Lima LIVI 9 Jan (SSt); rare in winter.

Savannah Sparrow: 1-6 Perry Rd LIVI 24 Dec, 1-16 Jan; N Wolcott WAYN 27 Dec (W&MR); scarce & local in winter.

Fox Sparrow: Ellison P, T Penfield 20-21 Jan, 10 Feb (JiM, LM), rare in winter.

White-throated Sparrow: max 25 MP 25 Jan, low max.

White-crowned Sparrow: 22 H – Cook Rd 28 Dec (AGu); max 68 H – Cook Rd 1 Jan (AGu); good numbers for winter.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 47 Riverside Cemetery, Rochester 2 Dec, low max.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 3000 NMWMA (Wiley Rd) 28 Feb (DDo); low numbers most of season.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD (R2): m Huston Rd LIVI 27 Jan (Tuck).

Rusty Blackbird: 3 HB 3 Dec; G – Beatty Pt 9 Dec; 3; 2 DEP 1; 2 Jan (R&SS; DTe); Honeoye Falls 16-18 Jan (BCar); MP 7 Feb (PMar); typically overwinters in small numbers.

Com. Grackle: max 3000 NMWMA (Wiley Rd) 28 Feb (DDo), low numbers most of season.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 450 T Caledonia LIVI 21 Jan (BCar).

Com. Redpoll: max 64 HB 10 Jan (MG); 2 H 23 Feb, only Feb rep; scattered few rep this winter.

Pine Siskin: max 37 T Canadice ONTA; small numbers thru.

Evening Grosbeak: Beechwood SP 9 Dec (MG), only report.

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REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

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December 2017 was colder than normal in Ithaca. The month's average low temperature was 18.5°F, 3° below normal. The average high was 32.1°, 4.7° below normal. Precipitation totaled 1.32", 0.08" less than normal. The 9.5" of snowfall was 3.1" less than normal. The maximum accumulation was 3". January was colder than normal, with an average low of 9.9°, 5.5° below normal and the average high of 29.3°, 2.0° below normal. January was wetter than

normal, with 2.38" of precipitation, 0.3" more than normal. Snowfall was 13.8", 3.8" below normal with a maximum accumulation of 8". February was warmer than normal. The average low was 21.2°, 4.7° above normal, and the average high was 39.1°, 5.1° above normal. February was only slightly wetter than normal, with 2.03" of precipitation, 0.05" more than normal. Snowfall was 1.4" less than normal with 12.8" total. The maximum accumulation was 6".

Five Ross's Geese and six White-fronted Geese at Stewart Park, Ithaca, attracted many birders on 24 December. Ian Davies picked out a total of 31 Cackling Geese among flocks of Canada Geese migrating over the Town of Danby on 27 February. Swan numbers peaked in December with high counts for Mute and Trumpeter Swans. Northern Pintail and Gadwall numbers peaked in early December. Migrating American Wigeon, Northern Pintail, and Red-breasted Merganser took advantage of the warm February weather to attain high winter counts. Diving duck numbers peaked in January, including high counts for Redhead, Greater and Lesser Scaup, White-winged Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, and Common Merganser. There was also a high count of Horned Grebes on Cayuga Lake in late January.

Unusual waterfowl species were: **Tufted Duck** present on Cayuga Lake in early January; two Surf Scoters on Cayuga Lake in mid-December, an individual on Seneca Lake in December and January, and one or more individuals on Cayuga Lake in January and February; and two Black Scoters on Cayuga and Seneca in December and one on Cayuga Lake in January.

One of the three Cattle Egrets that first appeared at Goose Haven in Seneca County in October continued through 7 December. Four Black Vultures appeared in Ithaca 20 December and became regular visitors to the Stevenson Road compost piles in the Town of Dryden through the rest of the season. Golden Eagle was observed in Tompkins County throughout January. Those reported in the Region in February were likely to have been migrants.

Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge hosted high counts of Northern Harriers and American Coots in early December. A record high 123 Sandhill Cranes was counted nearby in the Town of Tyre. One lingered in Schuyler County until 22 December, and migrants were first observed in Chemung County on 20 February.

A Killdeer at Myers Point in mid-December was the only report until the first migrant was reported in the Town of Danby on 20 February. A Pectoral Sandpiper was at Harris Park 9 December. The last fall report of American Woodcock was 1 December. Migrants began to arrive 24 February. Wilson's Snipe was observed in Montezuma NWR in early December and in the Town of Montour on 27 December.

Thirteen Lesser Black-backed Gulls at the Stevenson Road compost piles and four Glaucous Gulls at Van Cleef Lake in Geneva were seasonal high counts. Bonaparte's Gull was reported on Cayuga Lake on 9 December and at Lakefront Park, Geneva on 4 January. Dave Kennedy found the rarest gull, a **Slaty-backed**, at Van Cleef Lake. The bird lingered for four days.

There was a good incursion of Snowy Owls into the Region, with many reports near the north ends of the Finger Lakes and just a few scattered reports in the rest of the Region. A count of five at the Finger Lakes Regional Airport was the highest count. Small numbers of Short-eared Owls were reported in the Region, with the greatest concentration between Seneca and Cayuga Lakes.

Observers reported high counts of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, and Northern Flicker. The Region's only reported Red-headed Woodpecker overwintered in Cornell University's Palmer Woods.

Among resident passerines, observers reported high counts for White-breasted Nuthatch, Winter and Carolina Wrens, and Dark-eyed Junco. Reports of lingering passerines were widespread including multiple reports of Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Hermit Thrushes, Gray Catbirds, American Pipits, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Field Sparrows, Fox Sparrows, Savannah Sparrows, Swamp Sparrows, Eastern Towhees, and Rusty Blackbirds. Also lingering were Marsh Wrens at Montezuma NWR, Brown Thrasher in Horseheads, Common Yellowthroat at Montezuma NWR, and an Eastern Meadowlark at Lott Farm in Seneca County.

The most unusual passerine species was the **Green-tailed Towhee** at feeders in the Town of Montezuma. This is the second Regional record. The previous record was of a bird in Ithaca in 1963 which was also the first New York State record.

Other than Pine Siskins, winter finches were scarce. Steve Kelling reported Evening Grosbeak in the Town of Caroline in early December and a Pine Grosbeak there in February. The three reports of Common Redpoll came from Cayuga, Tompkins, and Schuyler Counties. Chris Wood reported the only Red Crossbills, two in Bear Swamp in Cayuga County.

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ABBREVIATIONS

BLNA – Bluegrass Lane Natural Area, TOMP; **CayL** – Cayuga L; **CC** – Cascadilla Creek, TOMP; **FLRA** – Finger Lakes Regional Airport, SENE; **MNWR** – Montezuma NWR; **MR** – Monkey Run, TOMP; **MyPt** – Myers Pt., TOMP; **SenL** – Seneca L; **SRCP** – Stevenson Road Compost Piles, TOMP; **StP** – Stewart P, TOMP; **SW** – Sapsucker Woods, TOMP; **TCar** – T Caroline, TOMP; **TDry** – T Dryden, TOMP; **TFay** – T Fayette, SENE; **TIth** – T Ithaca, TOMP; **TLed** – T Ledyard, CAYU; **TSF** – T Seneca Falls, SENE; **TTy** – T Tyre, SENE; **WTP** – Willard Town P, SENE.

WATERFOWL - VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: max and last 6 StP 24 Dec (mob), late; arr MNWR 17 Feb.

Snow Goose: max 50,000 T Varick SENE 25 Feb; 50,000 MNWR 27 Feb; 50,000 TSF 28 Feb.

Ross's Goose: max 5 StP 24 Dec (mob), high; last StP 26 Dec (mob), late; arr Savannah Mucklands SENE 20 Feb (MR, WR), early.

Cackling Goose: max 31 T Danby TOMP 27 Feb (ID), high.

Mute Swan: max 26 SenL, City of Geneva 30 Dec (CJ), high.

Trumpeter Swan: max 20 MNWR 2 Dec (JL), high.

Tundra Swan: max 1350 TSF 9 Dec.

Gadwall: max 1300 MNWR 5 Dec (mob), high.

Eurasian Wigeon: arr SenL SP 19 Feb (DK), early; Savannah Mucklands SENE 21-22 Feb; StP 22-25 Feb; CayL, TSF 24 Feb.

Am. Wigeon: max 225 MNWR 2 Dec (JB, CW), high.

N. Shoveler: max 47 MNWR 2 Dec; arr 3 StP 21 Feb.

N. Pintail: max 9500 MNWR 25 Feb (JM), high.

Redhead: max 32,000 CayL, TIth 2 Jan (JM), high.

TUFTED DUCK: CayL, TIth 1-3 Jan (SKr, mob); CayL, Aurora 7 Jan (JM, ph).

Greater Scaup: max 2500 Farley's Pt CAYU 15 Jan (GVH, CW), high.

Lesser Scaup: max 2800 Farley's Pt CAYU 16 Jan (JB, GVH, CW), high.

SURF SCOTER (R3): 2 Sheldrake Pt SENE 11-18 Dec (KK, TL, DMO); WTP 21 Dec-22 Jan (TL); StP 1 Jan (SHe, KMcGo!); CayL, TLed 20 Jan (SBI, BW); StP 3 Feb (SBI); Sheldrake Pt SENE 27 Feb (MH).

White-winged Scoter: max 57 WTP 22 Jan (DK, TL), high.

BLACK SCOTER (R3): 2 StP 10 Dec (JGK); 2 WTP 21 Dec (TL); MyPt 7 Jan (JGK).

Long-tailed Duck: max 28 Hog Hole TOMP 1 Jan (PR, KR), high.

Com. Merganser: max 1200 SenL SP 15 Jan (TL), high.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 300 Sheldrake SENE 24 Feb (TL), high.
Horned Grebe: max 43 CayL, TLed 28 Jan (AMi, DN), high; 40 StP 19 Dec (TL).
CATTLE EGRET (R3): Goose Haven SENE thru 7 Dec (mob).
BLACK VULTURE (R3): 4 Tlth 20 Dec (TSch); 1-4 SRCP 21 Dec thru (mob).

HAWKS - LARIDS

N. Harrier: max 17 MNWR 6 Dec (DS), high.
N. Goshawk: Hammond Hill State Forest TOMP 19 Dec (CW); SRCP 26 Jan (DF, CW), only reports.
Red-shouldered Hawk: max 2 Durfee Hill TOMP 27 Feb (ID), high.
GOLDEN EAGLE (R3): T Lansing TOMP 7 Jan (MC); TDry 10 Jan (CHa, JI!, WM); Boyer Creek Farm Hawk Watch TOMP 27 Jan (SKe); TCar 28 Jan (JGe!); T Woodhull STEU 31 Jan (KRe!); arr Pirozzollo P CHEM 17 Feb (MFr, SG), early; Cornell University 28 Feb (LCh, JC).
Am. Coot: max 800 MNWR 9 Dec (mob), high.
Sandhill Crane: max 123 TTy 3 Dec (mob), record high; last SenL, T Dix SCHU 22 Dec; arr Tanglewood Nature Center & Museum CHEM 24 Feb (CW), early.
Killdeer: MyPt 17 Dec; arr T Danby TOMP 20 Feb.
PECTORAL SANDPIPER (R3): Harris P CAYU 9 Dec (JM!), late.
Wilson's Snipe: MNWR 2 Dec (JB, CW); T Montour SCHU 27 Dec (MSchi).
Am. Woodcock: last SW 1 Dec (CW), late; arr & max 3 Caswell Road Grasslands TOMP 24 Feb; TDry 24 Feb.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 12 CayL SENE 9 Dec (JM, LS); East Shore P TOMP 9 Dec (TA); 2 Lakefront P SENE 4 Jan (TL).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 13 SRCP 2 Dec (KMcGo), high.
SLATY-BACKED GULL: Van Cleef L SENE 16-19 Feb (DK, ph!, mob).
Glaucous Gull: 4 Van Cleef L SENE 3 Feb (mob), high.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Rock Pigeon: max 289 Pine St Bridge STEU 16 Dec, low.
Snowy Owl: max 5 FLRA 24 Feb (mob), high.

Short-eared Owl: max 6 T Phelps 2 Jan; 6 FLRA 24 Feb.
RED-HEADED WOODPECKER (R3): Palmer Woods TOMP 1 Dec thru (mob).
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 2-3 T Enfield TOMP 31 Dec-15 Jan (PR), high.
Downy Woodpecker: max 23 CC 1 Jan (JF), high.
Hairy Woodpecker: max 13 TDry 1 Jan (DMo), high.
N. Flicker: max 13 MNWR 17 Feb (DN), high.
Merlin: max 3 Cornell University 20 Feb (KV), high.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: max 2 TFay 14 Feb.
Blue Jay: max 60 TFay 30 Dec.
White-breasted Nuthatch: max 29 CC 1 Jan (JF), high.
Brown Creeper: max 5 MR 20 Dec, low.
Winter Wren: max 3 Hile School Road Wetland TOMP 22 Dec (CW), high.
MARSH WREN (R3): MNWR 2 Dec (JB, CW); MNWR 9 Dec (JM, LS).
Carollina Wren: max 5 West Elmira Riverine Forest CHEM 3 Dec (BO); 5 MyPt 11 Jan (CW), high.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: May's Pt SENE 1 Dec-12 Jan (DK, ph, MG!); TFay 7-9 Dec (DK, ph); TFay 13 Feb (DK, ph); T Varick SENE 2 Dec (DK, ph); TLed 28 Jan (JB, CW!).
Hermit Thrush: T Lodi SENE 1 Dec (TL); Tlth 1 Jan (SJH); West Elmira Riverine Forest CHEM 1 Jan (AP); Coombs Hill CHEM 9 Jan (WB); Danby State Forest TOMP 18 Feb (DG).
Am. Robin: max 100 TTy 24 Jan, low.
Gray Catbird: Ludovico Trail SENE 4 Dec (DK); SW 5 Dec-9 Jan (mob, ph!); BLNA 27 Jan (TSch!); Queen Catharine Marsh SCHU 19 Feb (JS, ph!).
BROWN THRASHER (R3): Horseheads Dump 1 Jan (PMe, BO!, JO).
Am. Pipit: max 8 BLNA 9 Dec.
BOHEMIAN WAXWING (R3): SW 16 Feb (WH!).
Cedar Waxwing: max 125 Newfield 23 Feb, low.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Snow Bunting: max 1580 T Ledyard TOMP 7 Jan (JM), high.
COM. YELLOWTHROAT (R3): MNWR 18 Dec (JA, LiMo!).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 6 StP 18 Feb.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE: T Montezuma CAYU 10-16 Feb (DC, ph!; mob).

E. Towhee: TDry 1 Jan (MScha); TDry 13 Jan (KMcGo); Tlth 28 Jan (JGK); TCar 13 Feb (AMi).

Field Sparrow: T Springport CAYU 10 Dec (mob); TTy 18 Dec (DK); max 2 TTy 20 Dec (DK); high; T Brutus CAYU 16 Jan (KB); Farleys Pt CAYU 20 Jan (mob); Long Pt SP 28 Jan (JB, CW).

Savannah Sparrow: Bolton Pt TOMP 1 Jan (KMcGo); TTy 3 Jan (DK); BLNA 20 Jan (KR); FLRA 21 Jan (BH); BLNA 24 Jan (JM); Lott Farm SENE 9 Feb (DD).

FOX SPARROW (R3): SW 4 Dec (MC, JM); TDry 13 Dec (ASp); TDry 24-27 Feb (JF); MyPt 28 Feb (CW).

Song Sparrow: max 38 CC 1 Jan (JF), high.

Swamp Sparrow: max 4 BLNA 24 Feb (TSch), high.

White-crowned Sparrow: max 12 T Covert CAYU 14 Feb.

White-throated Sparrow: max 30 T Montezuma CAYU 11 Feb (JM), high.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 169 T Fayette 30 Dec (EBS), high.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 50000 MNWR 25 Feb (MSche), high.

E. Meadowlark: Lott Farm SENE 12 Jan (JA, LiMo); arr MR 24 Feb (CW), early; MNWR 28 Feb (GDa).

Rusty Blackbird: max 12 SW 10 Dec.

Com. Grackle: max 9000 MNWR 25 Feb (JM), high.

PINE GROSBEAK (R3): TCar 21 Feb (SKe).

House Finch: max 49 T Fayette 30 Dec, low.

Red Crossbill: 2 Bear Swamp CAYU 27 Jan (CW).

Com. Redpoll: Allens Pt CAYU 1 Jan (JB, CW); MR 14 Jan (JB, CW); 2 Queen Catharine Marsh SCHU 19 Jan (MFi).

Pine Siskin: max 70 TCar 14 Jan (CW), high.

EVENING GROSBEAK (R3): TCar 3 Dec (SKe).

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REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

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The mean temperature was slightly above normal for the 2017-18 winter season, while precipitation was average and snowfall was below normal. Data from the Binghamton National Weather Service station was used as a proxy for Region 4. However, there can be wide variation in snowfall totals throughout the Region, with higher elevations receiving more along with easterly locations during nor'easter storms. February in particular was unseasonably warm, with a high temperature of 69°F on the 21st and the fourth highest monthly average temperature on record. For the winter period, the mean temperature was 25.3°, 0.6° above normal. Total precipitation was 7.61", 0.02" above normal. Snowfall was 46.3", 10.8" below normal. Snowfall from the beginning of the season (1 July) to the end of February was 48.1",-15.8" below normal. Average snow depth was 2", 2" below normal. There were no large snow storms during the

winter period, with maximum 24 hour totals of 5.5" on 13 Jan and 7 Feb. Maximum snow depth was 10" for 9-10 Feb.

December started relatively warm and snow free, with the first trace of snow on 8 December. The middle of the month turned colder, with snow nearly every day from 10-18 December. Most ponds and lakes were frozen over by the middle of December. The end of the month was unseasonably cold with small amounts of snow 22-31 December, but with a maximum snow depth of only 4" on 31 December. It was the fifth driest December on record, with 1.41" of precipitation, 1.42" below normal. The mean temperature was 23.8°, 3.5° below normal. January started out very cold with winter lows of -7° on 1 and 7 January. There was at least a trace of snow most days from 1 to 9 January. A January thaw occurred on the 11-12th, with a high temperature of 60°. The warm-up was followed immediately by the first moderate storm of the season, with rain, freezing rain and then 5.5" of snow. This resulted in a Region-wide abundance of birds coming to feeders. Temperatures turned mainly warmer in the second half of the month, eroding much of the snow cover. January's mean temperature was 21.3°, 0.9° below normal. Snowfall was 14.9", 7.3" below normal. Early February saw average temperatures with snow most days, building to a maximum depth of 10" on 10 February. Temperatures were significantly above normal through the end of the month, with 20-21 February above 60° and four other days above 50°. The mean temperature for the month was 30.9°, 6.2° above normal. The month ended snow free. The first large flocks of early migrants arrived on 15-16 February.

One of the predictions for the 2017-18 winter was for a sizable irruption of Snowy Owls. While this was borne out by many reports across the State, Region 4 seemed to be an exception. There was only one documented report in the Laurens area of Otsego County on 9-10 December. There were rumors of other Snowy Owls in Region 4, but details such as date/time or photographs were not available. Unfortunately, this is a common occurrence for many of the sparsely birded areas of Region 4.

Another big story for this winter was the abundant food crop, particularly conifer cones. Some have described it, in general, as the best in decades across NYS. In my own observations, cones seemed particularly abundant on various spruce species, white pine, larch/tamarack, and Eastern hemlock. For deciduous trees, yellow and black birch and some ash and maple species had an excellent seed crop. The overall abundant natural food supply was probably connected with the observation of many winter bird feeders with bird numbers way down. This seems to have merit from observations that when a winter storm hit on 13 January with freezing rain and then 5+ inches of snow, suddenly large numbers of birds arrived at feeders across the Region. In particular, there was a Region-wide explosion of Pine Siskin reports on that date.

Some highlights from 2017 Christmas Bird Counts for circles predominately in Region 4 are:

Binghamton CBC 16 December. 58 species reported (58 avg). Unusual – Chipping Sparrow, Gray Catbird, and Tundra Swan. High counts for Bald Eagle (23), Common Grackle (7), Dark-eyed Junco (600), Fox Sparrow (6), and Hooded Merganser (194).

Oneonta CBC 16 December. 49 species reported (44 avg). Notable – Northern Goshawk, Northern Saw-whet Owl, and Rusty Blackbird. High counts – Sharp-shinned Hawk (5) and Red-bellied Woodpecker (12).

Owego CBC 30 December. 50 species reported (49 avg). Unusual – Red-breasted Merganser and Red-shouldered Hawk.

Sherburne CBC 16 December. 49 species reported (50 avg). Unusual – Gray Catbird.

Upper Delaware CBC 31 December. New CBC coordinated by Pamela J. Peters. 48 species reported. Notable – American Wigeon, Bufflehead, Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup, and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

The abundance of natural food and the extensive warm-ups in January and February, leaving no snow cover, make it difficult to evaluate the relative abundance of species that we consider winter migrants. It's easier to spot birds like Horned Lark when there is extensive snow cover and a nice spread of manure on a field. Other species did not have as great a need to visit bird feeders, when the natural food supply and temperate weather made it easy to forage. So on that note, American Tree Sparrow and Purple Finch were reported widely, but numbers seemed down. Snow Bunting and Horned Lark were reported in good numbers, with an impressive 750 buntings in Springfield Center, Otsego County on 3 February and 250 larks in Harford, Cortland County on 17 February. There were several reports of rare Lapland Longspur in the towns of Oxford, Chenango County; Hamden, Delaware County; and Cortlandville, Cortland County. Pine Siskins were reported in very good numbers across the Region. Common Redpolls were very scarce, with just a handful of sightings of very small numbers. Northern Shrikes were also scarce, with most reports in Broome, Chenango, and Tioga Counties. Rough-legged Hawks were fairly common in the western and central parts of the Region. There were no reports of Evening Grosbeak, Pine Grosbeak, or White-winged Crossbill. Red Crossbills were reported in small numbers, by Matt Young, in the conifer plantations of northern Chenango County. Matt conducts research on crossbill subspecies migration and other behaviors.

The unusual weather brought many unusual sightings over the winter period. Many waterfowl either lingered or made mid-winter appearances. Of note for mid-winter sightings were: Snow Goose in Chenango and Tioga Counties; Gadwall in Broome and Delaware Counties; American Wigeon in Chenango; N. Pintail in many locations; Green-winged Teal, likely overwintering in Chenango; Canvasback in Broome and with extended stay at Confluence Park, Owego, Tioga County from 26 January to 27 February; Greater Scaup in Broome and Delaware; Lesser Scaup in Broome and Otsego; Long-tailed Duck

in Broome; Red-breasted Merganser in Broome and Delaware; Red-throated Loon in Broome; Pied-billed Grebe in Delaware and Otsego; Horned and Red-necked Grebe in Delaware and Broome.

Overwintering half-hardies included: Winter Wren, Chipping Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and Fox Sparrow. Other notable lingering birds were: Gray Catbird, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Pine Warbler, Eastern Phoebe, and White-crowned Sparrow. Additional unexpected mid-winter appearances included: Field Sparrow, American Woodcock, and Savannah Sparrow.

There were several rare species reported in the Region this period. A Ross's Goose was seen flying with Canadas at Carantouan Greenway, Wildwood Nature Reserve, Tioga County on 12 January. This is the second eBird record for the species in Tioga. A Greater White-fronted Goose was associating with Canadas around Whitney Point Reservoir, Broome County in early December. A single bird was also reported on 26 February in Candor, Tioga County. Cackling Goose was reported in several locations: at Stupke Pond, Cortland County on 5 December and 27 Feb; at Cannonsville Reservoir, Delaware on 17 December, and in the town of Virgil, Cortland on 12 December. Additional rare species include: Northern Goshawk (Delaware, Chenango, and Tioga Counties); Short-eared Owl at North Spencer Marsh and Nichols, Tioga; Northern Saw-whet Owl, Aquaterra Park, Broome, N. Spencer Marsh, Jam Pond, Chenango, and several locations in Delaware; and a Peregrine Falcon seen in Homer, Cortland County on 18 February (rare in the Region outside Binghamton).

Tom Salo again provided information relative to the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society (DOAS) camera trapping activities. Sites started operating in late December after the close of the southern zone muzzle-loading deer season. Bald Eagles were common at some sites, with a high of 20 individuals some days in Burlington. Common Raven were present in large numbers (>50) at Burlington and Middletown. **19 winter resident Golden Eagles were photographed at six sites from late December through February;** the number of individual Golden Eagles was the highest in nine years of camera trapping. Over that period we have averaged six sites per season in Delaware and Otsego Counties. Golden Eagles are regular in Otsego County, however, they appear in greater numbers at sites further south. The highest numbers of individuals have been at sites in SE Delaware County. The site in the Town of Middletown recorded nine of the 19 eagles this season. This quantity is based on a cursory examination of daily photos. With 500-600 photos per day, a more exact number will require the examination of tens of thousands of photographs. The first bird photographed at that site was a Golden Eagle on 21 December, 2017. This bird did not return. That is not uncommon; however, the timing raises the possibility that this individual was a late migrant as opposed to a winter resident. A site in the Town of Franklin, also Delaware County, had the second highest number—four.

Elsewhere, Golden Eagles made appearances at four Otsego County sites. Some of these birds fed for several days but none persisted longer than that. One of the GPS-tracked birds that had been trapped in SE Delaware County in 2017 returned directly to the site where it was trapped, and remained all winter. Another Golden Eagle was observed and photographed by Kyle Dudgeon harassing Bald Eagles at the site in Burlington. This bird was never photographed at the camera trap. In recent years we have observed several Golden Eagles very near the Burlington site that did not scavenge at the bait.

In total, 121 species were reported in Region 4 during the winter season.

CONTRIBUTORS

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PHOTO GALLERY
WINTER 2017-18



Mew Gull, Oswego River, Minetto, *Oswego*, 18 Jan 2018, © Jay McGowan.



Mountain Bluebird, Democrat Pt., *Suffolk*, 17-26 Dec 2017 (here 24 Dec), © Karen Fung.



Green-tailed Towhee, Town of Montezuma, *Cayuga*, 10-16 Feb 2018 (here 14 Feb), © Sue Barth.



Inca Dove, Celoron, *Chautauqua*, 4-12 Dec 2017 (here 8 Dec), © Celeste Morien.



Graylag Goose, Mattituck, *Suffolk*, 30 Jan 2018, © Derek Rogers.



Crested Caracara, Ontario, Wayne, 1 Feb 2018. Trailcam photo courtesy Paul McNamara.



Harris's Sparrow, Altamont, Albany, 16-24 Feb 2018 (here 24 Feb). © Joe Wing.



Figure 1. Map of NY Ecoregions (coded by color) transposed over New York State county boundaries (County names italicized). From Bryce, et al. 2010. This and the following figures refer to the article on pp. 94-98.



Figures 2 & 3. Bethlehem Steel nest site, Lackawanna, NY, April 2017. Photos courtesy of NYSDEC.



Figure 4: Railroad bridge over the Erie Canal in Pittsford, NY. Photo courtesy of Sarah Piecuch, NYSDOT.



Figure 5 (Top): Common Raven nest inside NYSDOT Salt Barn. Sodus, NY, 23 May 2017. View from approximately 500 feet away. Photo: Sarah Picuch, NYSDOT.
 Figure 6 (Bottom): Juvenile Common Ravens getting ready to fledge, 2 June 2017. Photo courtesy of Scott Robinson, NYSDOT.

Common Ravens Reported To eBird/County/Year

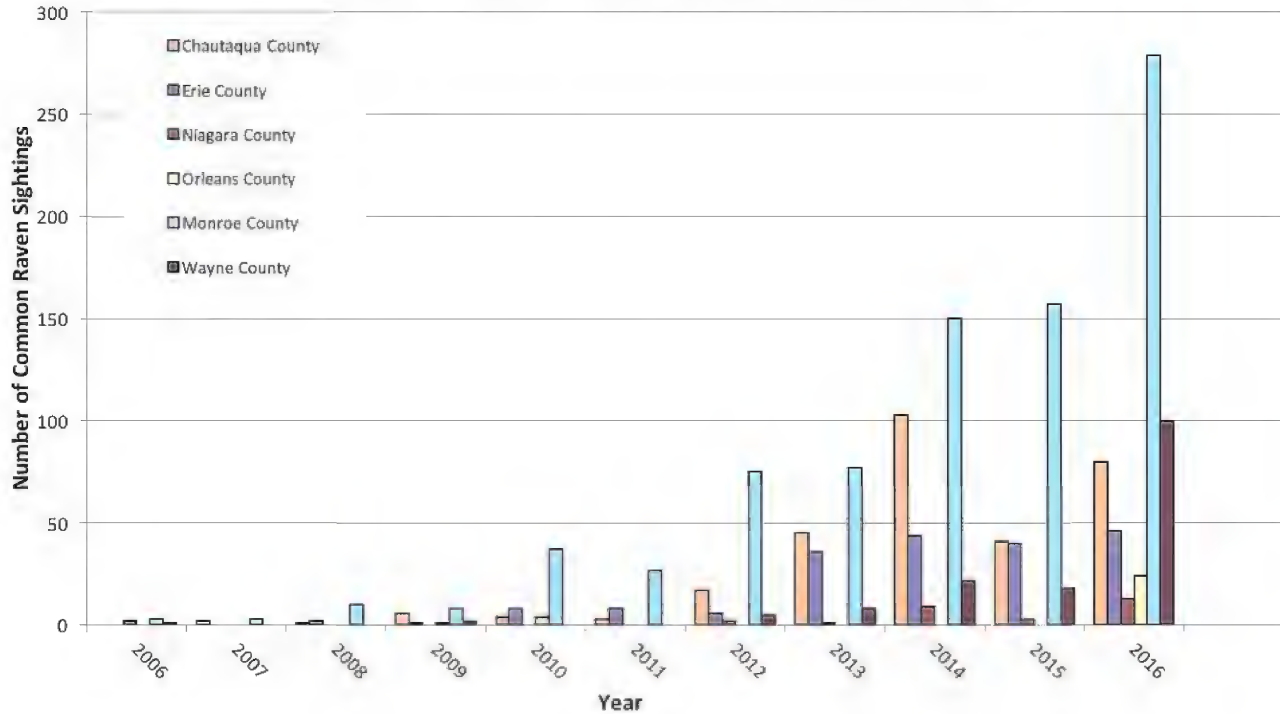


Figure 7. Number of Common Raven sightings reported to the eBird database for the Erie/Ontario Lake Plain counties from 2006-2016 (eBird Basic Dataset).

Russ Smiley, Linda Smith, Joshua Snodgrass, Rod Spangle, Cynthia Staley, Shirley Stout, Brian Sullivan, Suzanne Summers, Amy Swarr, Patricia Thorpe, Sarah Toner, Alex Trifunovic, Adam Troyer, Alison Van Keuren, Evelyn Vavra, Lance Verderame, Anthony Vicente, Kai Victor, Matthew Voelker, Fred von Mechow, Brad Walker, Mike Wasilco, Dan Watkins, Drew Weber, Jonathan Weeks, Inga Wells, David Wheeler, Brian Whipple, Glenn Wilson, Mark Witmer, Colleen Wolpert, Chris Wood, Matthew Young.

ABBREVIATIONS

ALk – Allen L, OTSE; **AqPk** – Aquaterra P, BROO; **BCBC** – Binghamton CBC, BROO; **BPd** – Boland Pd; **BUNP** – Binghamton University Nature Preserve; **CaHo** – Cannon Hole, T Barton, TIOG; **CG** – Carantouan Greenway, T Barton, TIOG; **ChLk** – Chenango L, T New Berlin, CHEN; **ChRB** – Chenango Ri, Greater Binghamton, BROO; **CoPk** – Confluence P, Owego, TIOG; **CRes** – Cannonsville Res & outflow, DELA; **CVSP** – Chenango Valley SP, T Fenton, BROO; **DeIR** – Delaware Ri, Deposit, DELA; **Dpk** – Dorchester P, Whitney Pt, BROO; **FMT** – Franklin Mtn, T Davenport, DELA; **HCP** – Hillcrest Pits, Port Dickenson, BROO; **Lime** – Lime Hollow, T Cortlandville, CORT; **NSpM** – N Spencer Marsh, T Spencer, TIOG; **OnCBC** – Oneonta CBC, OTSE/DELA; **OtLk** – Otsego L, OTSE; **OwCBC** – Owego CBC, TIOG; **PRes** – Pepacton Res & outflow, DELA; **SCBC** – Sherburne CBC, CHEN (mostly); **SkLk** – Skaneateles L (SE), T Scott, CORT; **StPd** – Stupke Pd, T Cortlandville, CORT; **SusRB** – Susquehanna Ri, Greater Binghamton, BROO; **ULCP** – Upper Lisle County P, T Triangle, BROO; **WPres** – Whitney Pt Res, BROO.

WATERFOWL - VULTURES

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE

(R4): WPres 1-8 Dec; Candor TIOG 26 Feb.

Snow Goose: max 800 Campville TIOG 24 Feb; last WPres 14 Dec; early 14 Lime 8 Feb; major arr mult loc 21 Feb; a few sightings mid-winter CHEN, CORT, & TIOG.

ROSS'S GOOSE (R4): CG 12 Jan.

Cackling Goose: 2 StPd 5 Dec; T Virgil CORT 12 Dec; CRes 17 Dec; rare.

Canada Goose: max 3200 ULCP 12 Dec.

Tundra Swan: scarce CVSP 16 Dec; 6 Deposit DELA 25 Feb; 2 ULCP 28 Feb.

Wood Duck: last Lime 9 Dec; arr CRes 17 Feb, early.

Gadwall: max 17 ULCP 25 Feb; HCP 26 Dec-12 Jan; overwintered CRes; more frequent winter sightings.

Am. Wigeon: max 15 ULCP 28 Feb; rare mid-winter 2 T Sherburne CHEN 16 Jan; arr 2 CG 22 Feb.

Am. Black Duck: max 150 CRes mult dates.

Mallard: max 418 DeIR 6 Jan.

N. Shoveler: last Lime 5 Dec; arr 15 SusRB 26 Feb.

N. Pintail: max 28 ULCP 24 Feb; arr 2 CaHo 18 Feb; unusual # winter sightings.

Green-winged Teal: Blanding Rd wetlands T Sherburne CHEN, unusual, likely overwinter; HCP 26 Dec-1 Jan; 2 Lime 10 Feb; arr Barton TIOG 20 Feb.

Canvasback: HCP 10 Jan; 2 CaHo 25 Jan; CoPk 26 Jan-27 Feb; rare.

Redhead: max 46 OtLk 14 Feb; T Sherburne CHEN 25 Jan, rare; overwintered several locations.

Ring-necked Duck: max 100 ALk 8 Dec; unusual, overwintered sev loc.

Greater Scaup: DelR 26 Dec-14 Jan; CaHo 6 Jan; HCP 8-12 Jan; arr OtLk 20 Feb.
Lesser Scaup: ChRB 26 Dec-11 Feb, arr CaHo 19 Feb.
Surf Scoter: 2 WPres 2-6 Dec, rare.
White-winged Scoter: 2 ChRB 31 Dec-3 Jan, unexpected loc & date.
Black Scoter: SusRB 1 Dec, rare, late.
Long-tailed Duck: last 4 OtLk 1 Dec; SusRB 12-20 Jan, rare.
Bufflehead: max 90 OtLk 15 Dec; mid-winter sightings mult loc.
Com. Goldeneye: max 42 OtLk 15 Dec.
Hooded Merganser: max 60 HCP 26-27 Dec.
Com. Merganser: max 200 WPres 11 Dec.
Red-Breasted Merganser: scarce, scattered sightings in expected loc – reservoir outlets, main rivers.
Ruddy Duck: last WPres 18 Dec.
Ring-necked Pheasant: scarce, consistent sightings NSpM otherwise scattered.
Ruffed Grouse: max 7 Lime 5 Feb; widespread but limited sightings.
Wild Turkey: max 104 Springfield Center OTSE 3 Feb.
Red-throated Loon: PRes 10-17 Dec; OtLk 14 Dec; ChRB 11 Feb; rare.
Com. Loon: max 5 OtLk 9 Dec; 2-5 OtLk 9-21 Dec; WPres 6-11 Dec.
Pied-billed Grebe: OtLk 1 Dec, late; PRes 2 Dec, late; OtLk 10-15 Jan; PRes 1-13 Jan; SusRB 12 Feb; rare mid-winter.
Horned Grebe: PRes 1-7 Jan; ChRB 8 Jan.
Red-necked Grebe: CRes 17 Dec; PRes 7 Jan; 2 SusRB 12 Feb; rare.
Double-crested Cormorant: late 2 WRes 12 Dec, late; arr CoPk 25 Feb.
Great Blue Heron: a few overwintered.
Turkey Vulture: late 4 Vestal BROO 26 Dec, late; Lime 15 Feb, early.

HAWKS - LARIDS

Bald Eagle: 12 Burlington OTSE 17 Feb. max at site; max 23 BCBC 16 Dec; fairly common thru Region.
N. Harrier: fair # reports thru.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: few scattered thru.
Cooper's Hawk: max 12 BCBC; fairly common throughout.
N. Goshawk: FMT 1 Dec; CRes 1 Dec; Bowman Lake SP CHEN 24 Feb; T Spencer TIOG 28 Feb; rare.
Red-shouldered Hawk: scarce; a few scattered reports thru.
Red-tailed Hawk: max 31 OnCBC 16 Dec.

Rough-legged Hawk: fairly common, higher #s west & central in Region.
Golden Eagle: max 7 FMT 1 Dec; a few scattered sightings outside Catskills; summary of camera trapping data from Tom Salo, *intro*.
Am. Coot: max 66 OtLk 8 Feb; overwinter OtLk; rare elsewhere, CRes 17 Dec; SkLk 16 Dec
Killdeer: arr sev loc 21 Feb.
Am. Woodcock: T Nichols TIOG 15 Jan; T Owego TIOG 23 Jan; rare mid-winter; arr ULCP 28 Feb.
Bonaparte's Gull: WRes 2 Dec, late.
Ring-billed Gull: max 700 WRes 9 Dec.
Herring Gull: max 190 Plymouth Res. Chen 3 Dec.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: Lime 3 Jan & 19 Feb; 3 DPK 24 Feb; Cortland CORT 25 Feb; rare.
Greater Black-backed Gull: 9 Cortland Gravel Pits 16 Dec; Lime 3-4 Jan; West Rd CORT 2 Feb; Lime 10 & 19 Feb; 7 Cortland 25 Feb; rare.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Mourning Dove: max 81 T Sherburne CHEN 16 Dec.
E. Screech-Owl: NSpM 10 Dec-3 Jan; T Sherburne 17 Feb thru; CVSP 30 Dec-15 Jan; T Colchester DELA 21-27 Jan; AqPk 21 Jan; underreported.
Great Horned Owl: few rep underreported.
Snowy Owl: T Laurens OTSE 9-10 Dec, only report.
Barred Owl: few rep, underreported.
Short-eared Owl: T Nichols TIOG 10 Dec; NSpM 21-26 Jan.
N. Saw-whet Owl: AqPk 4-7 Jan; T Hancock DELA 16 Jan; T German CHEN 20 Jan; NSpM 22-29 Jan; T Colchester DELA 27 Jan; rare.
Belted Kingfisher: max 6 BCBC 16 Dec; arr mult loc 20 Feb.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 15 OwCBC
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: rare overwintered T Scott CORT; Downsview 31 Dec-7 Jan; arr CaHo 20 Feb.
N. Flicker: scarce, a few scattered sightings throughout.
Am. Kestrel: uncommon, a few appeared to overwinter; T Bainbridge CHEN; T Spencer TIOG.
Merlin: scarce, a few reports throughout.
Peregrine Falcon: rare 2 Binghamton thru; T Sanford BROO 3 Feb; T Homer CORT 18 Feb.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

E. Phoebe: late ULCP 3 Dec.

N. Shrike: scarce, mostly BROO, CHEN, & TIOG.

Fish Crow: max 35 Vestal BROO 26 Dec; along ChRB & SusRB thru, becoming more common.

Com. Raven: max 42 OTSE, at eagle survey sites; fairly widespread thru.

Horned Lark: max 250 Harford CORT 17 Feb; most sightings BROO & CHEN.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 10 Preble CORT 1 Feb; widespread but few rep.

Brown Creeper: max 5 Aqpk 21 Jan.

Winter Wren: overwintered CVSP; BUNP 4 Jan; a few scattered sightings Feb; rare in winter.

Carolina Wren: fairly common; most sightings BROO & TIOG.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 15 T Cortlandville CORT.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: no reports.

E. Bluebird: max 12 Lime 9 Dec.

Hermit Thrush: Victory St. Marsh BROO 21 Jan, rare in winter; arr Lime 27 Feb.

Gray Catbird: BUNP 2 Dec; BCBC 16 Dec; SCBC 16 Dec; rare in winter.

N. Mockingbird: a few reports BROO & CORT.

Cedar Waxwing: max 160 ULCP 21 Jan; most in BROO & TIOG.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: 1-2 T Oxford CHEN 9 Jan & 22 Jan; 2 T Hamden DELA 21 Jan; 3 T Cortlandville CORT 24 Feb.

Snow Bunting: max 750 Springfield Center OTSE 3 Feb; fairly widespread.

Pine Warbler: ULCP 3 Dec, rare in winter.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Downsfield DELA 2 Dec, rare in winter.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: max 46 ULCP 16 Feb; widespread.

Chipping Sparrow: Castle Creek BROO; Lisle BROO 15 Dec; 3 Spencer TIOG 2-3 Jan; rare in winter.

Field Sparrow: 2 T Barton TIOG 10 Feb, only rep.

Fox Sparrow: last Swift Rd T Chenango BROO 16 Dec; Sanford BROO 18 Jan-11 Feb; T Colchester DELA 22 Dec & 2 Feb; 2 NSpM 19 Feb; possibly overwintering birds rare.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 78 OwCBC 30 Dec, abundant.

White-crowned Sparrow: T Nichols TIOG 30 Dec, rare in winter.

White-throated Sparrow: max 12 T Greene Chen 2 Jan.

Savannah Sparrow: rare Murphys Pits T Vestal BROO 29 Jan, rare in winter.

Swamp Sparrow: scarce, a few overwintered at wetlands in BROO, CHEN, & TIOG.

N Cardinal: max 18 Vestal BROO 4 Feb.

Red-winged Blackbird: unusual overwinter Castle Creek BROO; a few scattered sightings Jan; arr 6 T Union BROO 16 Feb, early.

Brown-headed Cowbird: a few overwintered, sev loc; arr 17 Feb, early.

Rusty Blackbird: no reports.

Com. Grackle: unusual, a few scattered mid-winter reports; arr BPd 15 Feb.

House Finch: max 30 CoPk 30 Dec.

Purple Finch: max 10 ULCP 21 Jan; widespread in small #s.

Red Crossbill: scarce, reported in higher elevation conifer plantations by Matt Young, *intro*.

Com. Redpoll: max 6 Rosebloom OTSE 24-25 Dec; Lime 11 Jan; Downsfield DELA 13 Jan; 5 T Middlefield OTSE 4 Feb; T Cortlandville CORT 24 Feb.

Pine Siskin: fairly common; max 82 T Scott CORT 16 Dec.

Am. Goldfinch: max 110 T Oxford CHEN 17 Jan.

Evening Grosbeak: no reports.

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REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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The winter of 2017-'18 came on fast and hard. Many of the Region's ponds and lakes froze up tight during the second week of December. Serious snow accumulations were a factor by the end of the second week and bone-chilling cold arrived in the final week of the month. In Syracuse the mean temperature for December was 24.1°F, which is 5.3° lower than normal. Temperatures in Old Forge in the Adirondacks bottomed out at -30° on 28 December. In Syracuse the snowfall total for the month was 34.2", only 1.5" higher than the average. January was cold and snowier than December, with a mean temperature in Syracuse of 21.5°, 2.1° below the historical average. In Verona, taking part in the Oneida CBC on 1 January, Bill Purcell reported a temperature of -20°. On the same day, in Old Forge, Gary Lee's thermometer read, -32°. In Syracuse, snowfall for January measured 44.5", which is 10" above normal. The arctic trend reversed in February, with a substantial late-month thaw. The average temperature for the month was 32.2°, 6.3° higher than normal. Snowfall in Syracuse measured 23.6", which is 1.7" lower than average for the month.

Harsh conditions and early freeze-ups of many water bodies pushed most geese out of the Region during the second week of December, which is somewhat earlier than usual. This made waterfowl relatively scarce for the Region's CBCs. However, by mid-December the snow did serve to concentrate songbirds at feeding stations. In late December and early January, reports of grounded loons, grebes, and some diving ducks began coming in from the Region's wildlife rehabilitators. Oneida Lake froze at least by the end of December as did Otisco Lake and about two-thirds of Skaneateles Lake. On 19 February the maximum amount of ice coverage recorded on Lake Ontario was 82%. A warm up during the last week of February and winds from favorable directions held the promise of an early spring, or at least that's how some birds interpreted it. Waterfowl, some raptors, American Woodcocks, and blackbirds poured into the Region.

Waterfowl numbers and diversity were for the most part unremarkable this season. Away from the eastern portion of the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge that lies within Region 5, dabbling duck numbers were low. Diving ducks concentrated in expected ice-free havens such as the Oswego River and Harbor and parts of Onondaga and Skaneateles Lakes. Single **Greater White-**

fronted Geese were found at several locations, including Cazenovia and Onondaga Lakes. On 4 December David Wheeler reported a possible Barnacle x Cackling Goose hybrid. The bird was associating with three Cackling Geese on Cazenovia Lake. Most likely the same bird had been seen in mid-November on Seneca Lake. 850 Redheads at Skaneateles Lake on 20 January was a good count for the location. A maximum number of 1082 Redheads tallied at Onondaga Lake on 19 February was even more impressive. Other *Aythya* species were not as remarkable, and modest high counts came from bays on Lake Ontario. Wheeler found six Black Scoters together on Onondaga Lake on 24 December, an excellent count for the spot. None were adult males. In February, Long-tailed Ducks were found in large rafts at Oswego Harbor and Fair Haven. Bill Purcell found two female King Eiders at Oswego on 3 January. 203 Hooded Mergansers at Sandy Pond on 9 December is notable, as is 200 at Onondaga Lake on 17-20 December. 2500 Common Mergansers were tallied at Onondaga Lake on Christmas Day. As mentioned above, this was not a good winter for loons. Fast-forming ice puts them in real jeopardy. Reports of several groundings came from the Region's wildlife rehabilitators. Known casualties are likely representative of a larger hidden toll.

Two wintering **Black Vultures** joined the usual Turkey Vultures in the Jamesville area this winter. The vultures are attracted to the county compost pile and roadkill dump near the old quarry. Tony Shrimpton has for several years observed the birds at their roost site in Fayetteville. This year he noted the Black version were indeed accompanying Turkey Vultures on their daily commute. Black Vulture as a winterer is an interesting phenomenon also noted in the Ithaca area and Niagara River—might they be harbingers of a year-round resident population developing in Region 5? Despite the harsh weather, five Turkey Vultures were found by Ernest Williams and party while participating in the Clinton CBC in the towns of Kirkland and Marshal on 16 December. The birds continued through the season. At the same time other typical wintering raptors like Rough-legged Hawk, American Kestrel, and Northern Harrier were thin on the ground and even missing from some traditional areas. Reports of Golden Eagle, including several adults, came from nine areas. Wintering Golden Eagles in the Region are typically juveniles. On 28 February, eight each of Red-shouldered and Rough-legged Hawks migrated past Derby Hill.

A Purple Sandpiper was found at Oswego Harbor on 28 December but not seen again. A late American Woodcock was found on 17 December; February birds are early spring migrants. A **Black-legged Kittiwake** found by David Wheeler and Deborah Dohne at Onondaga Lake on 17 December was unusual for that site. After the unusually cold weather of early January, massive numbers of gulls began to collect at Onondaga Lake and along the Seneca and Oswego Rivers. While on a non-birding visit to Oswego on 16 January, Wheeler found a second Regional record **SLATY-BACKED GULL** on the Oswego River. He had no scope or camera with him at the time, but was able to contact Mary Magistro who arrived in minutes with proper optics. The gull was subsequently

seen at several sites along the Oswego and Seneca Rivers through 7 February and is likely the same bird sighted thereafter on Van Cleef Lake in Seneca Falls (R3). On 18 January a Regional first **MEW GULL** was identified by Jay McGowan on the Oswego River in Minetto. The rarity was first seen sleeping on the ice above the dam and was picked from a flock of Ring-billed Gulls when it briefly raised its head and revealed its short bill. The bird remained at the site for two days and was viewed and photographed by many birders who noted its most conspicuous feature to be a pink wash to the underparts. A consensus formed that the bird was likely of the European form called “Common Gull” rather than the subspecies of western North America. A notable maximum number of 16 Iceland Gulls was tallied on the Seneca River at Baldwinsville on 3 February. Gregg Dashnau noted the spot became exceptional after January's deep freeze, and kept careful daily watch of the goings-on and reported banded gulls.

There were less than twenty reports of Eastern Screech-Owls this period. Wildlife Rehabilitator Jean Soprano received one that was struck by a vehicle in Baldwinsville on 12 February. There were several other reports of vehicle impacts involving other owl species. Soprano reported four cases of Snowy Owls being struck by vehicles and one instance of an individual that had become trapped inside a building in Syracuse. This seems a high number of casualties. A decent maximum of four Snowys was reported at Oswego Harbor on 5 December. One birder speculated that the lack of them in Fairfield (Herkimer County) could be related to the area's large number of wind turbines. There were only three reports of Short-eared Owls this period. None lingered. Individual Northern Saw-whet Owls were found in Remsen and Clay. One Red-headed Woodpecker was photographed at Verona Beach State Park on 1 January, while a pair wintered at a New Haven property owned by Dave Babb. Reports of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers came from 14 locations. Only a few of those occurred in February. As referenced above, American Kestrels were somewhat harder to come by this winter. There were also relatively few reports of Merlins in January. Perhaps the harsh December compelled them to move further south. Peregrine Falcons were reported primarily from expected locations. Resident pairs in Syracuse and Utica were in place through the period. The Utica pair purportedly dealt with more than one interloper in February. One banded adult female engaged in a ledge display with the resident male on 21 February. According to the intruder's band information, she originated from a nest in Springfield Massachusetts and was banded in May of 2016. The same individual was photographed in Rome on 9 September, 2017.

Northern Shrikes were reported from some of the expected areas, but none were reliable finds. A maximum number of 21 Common Ravens in Dolgeville on 17 December was notable as were the 16 tallied in the Town of Nelson on 26 January. The species' presence in Region 5 continues to increase. Numbers of wintering Red-breasted Nuthatches were good in appropriate habitat due to the Region's significant cone crop. Single Hermit Thrushes were reported from four areas. At Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary in Kirkland, one was seen on multiple

occasions from 14-31 December. It was often seen associating with Eastern Bluebirds as they partook of the fruit from winterberry bushes. A juvenile **Indigo Bunting** was seen and photographed at a Syracuse bird feeder on 30 December. There were no subsequent reports of the bird. Significant numbers of blackbirds began returning in the last week of February as did many ducks. Winter finches were largely a disappointment for most of us. However, those that didn't mind traveling to the outskirts of the Region—both north and south—were occasionally rewarded for their efforts. There were five reports of Common Redpolls including from New Woodstock, where 12 were counted on 19 December. By mid-February small flocks of Red Crossbills started being reported in the Adirondacks and in the Adirondack foothills; no doubt taking advantage of the area's substantial cone crop. Observers were often seeing the crossbills as they gritted on roadsides. There were no reports of Evening Grosbeak.

Development of the west shore and inner harbor area of Onondaga Lake continues. Tall hotels and residences near completion and the long strip on Van Rensselaer St. is being graded and prepared for construction. What fate lies for the fields on Solar St.? While the lands adjacent to the lake continue to be altered in too many places and ways to list, the lake itself is hopefully cleaner and continues to be incredibly important to wintering and migratory waterfowl. Deborah Dohne kept almost daily track of the goings-on and documented them in eBird and in a winter-season summary she provided the *Kingbird* Regional report editors. After the extreme weather of January, Onondaga Lake began attracting large numbers of our three common gull species, including 229 Great Black-backed Gulls counted on 19 February. This is by far the largest concentration of the species in our area. Common Merganser counts numbered in the 1000-2500 range for much of the period and were joined by about 100 Red-breasted Mergansers, a much bigger number than typical for the lake. Dohne also observed 1000+ Redhead and many scaup during February and noted 600 Mallards on 19 January. The impressive concentration of waterfowl held three Snowy Owls through much of the season. They were often seen standing on the ice and flying to shoreline perches.

A total of 129 species and four hybrids was found this period, which is four less than the most recent decade's average. The highlights included: Greater White-fronted Goose, King Eider, **Black Vulture**, **Golden Eagle**, Red-shouldered Hawk, Purple Sandpiper, American Woodcock, **Black-legged Kittiwake**, Bonaparte's Gull, **MEW GULL**, **SLATY-BACKED GULL**, Lesser Black-backed Gull, **Snowy Owl**, Short-eared Owl, N. Saw-whet Owl, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Fox Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, **Indigo Bunting**, and Red Crossbill.

The winter season produced 36,336 eBird records, which were processed by Swan Hummingbird v4.02.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BLNC – Beaver Lake Nature Center, Baldwinsville; **Brew** – Brewerton; **Bville** – Baldwinsville; **Canas** – Canastota; **CM** – Clay Marsh, Clay; **DB** – Ditch Bank Rd & vicinity, T Sullivan/Lenox; **DH** – Derby Hill, T Mexico; **Dolge** – Dolgeville, HERK; **FH** – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay, and vicinity; **GLSP** – Green Lakes SP, Fayetteville; **HI** – Howland I WMA; **MNWR east** – Montezuma NWR, CAYU; **OF** – Old Forge; **OLC** – Onondaga L Creekwalk; **OneiL** – Oneida L; **OnonL** – Onondaga L; **OswH** – Oswego Harbor; **PPt** – Oneida L at Phillips Pt, W Monroe; **RCFS** – Rice Creek Field Station, Oswego; **SFNS** – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; **SH** – Southern Highlands of ONON & MADI; **Skane** – Skaneateles; **SNC** – Sterling Nature Center; **SP** – Sandy Pd and vicinity; **SSSP** – Selkirk Shores SP; **SVB** – Sylvan/Verona Beach; **Syr** – Syracuse; **TR** – Three Rivers WMA, Lysander; **WP** – Woodman Pd, Hamilton.

WATERFOWL - VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: Cazenovia 4 Dec (DW); OnonL 20, 28 Jan (MN, DW, DD); Fulton 20, 27 Jan (SR, mob).
Snow Goose: last 8 Cross Lake 30 Dec; arr 1200 Tully 21 Feb; max 18000 Cato 28 Feb.
Cackling Goose: max 9 Port Byron 28 Feb; seven other reports of singles.
Barnacle Goose x Cackling Goose: Cazenovia 4 Dec (DW), putative.
Canada Goose: 2500 WP 3 Dec; max 2650 DH 28 Feb.

Snow Goose x Canada Goose: Bville 4 Jan (KB).

Mute Swan: 16 OLC 8 Jan; max 63 FH 17 Feb.

Trumpeter Swan: max 8 FH 20 Dec; 4 OLC 1 Jan; 4 Brew 18 Feb; several other locs.

Tundra Swan: max 130 PPt 6 Dec; 112 Port Byron 28 Feb.

Wood Duck: max 11 TR 25 Feb; 7 DH 28 Feb; very few in Dec.

Gadwall: max 49 FH 8 Dec; 12 OLC 19 Feb.

Am. Wigeon: 75 Port Byron 24 Feb; max 140 MNWR east 26 Feb.

Am. Black Duck: 37 Mohawk 18 Dec; 33 Bville 4 Jan; max 50 OnonL 28 Feb.
Mallard: max 800 OnonL 17 Dec; 630 Bville 4 Jan.
Am. Black Duck x Mallard: OswH 16 Jan.
N. Shoveler: last 3 OLC 18 Dec; arr OLC 7 Feb; 7 WP 3 Dec; 10 Canas 9 Dec;
N. Pintail: last 7 WP 12 Dec; arr 9 Canas 25 Feb; max 2800 MNWR east 26 Feb (BP), great number.
Green-winged Teal: max 6 WP 6 Dec; last 3 WP 12 Dec; arr 2 Richfield Springs 12 Feb; low numbers.
Redhead: 580 FH 20 Dec; 850 Skan 20 Jan; max 1082 OnonL 19 Feb (DD), good number.
Canvasback: 10 Brew 24 Feb; max 14 OnonL 28 Feb; small numbers from three other locs.
Ring-necked Duck: max 475 WP 6 Dec; 175 Brew 24 Feb.
Greater Scaup: max 450 FH 13 Feb; 300 OswH 14 Feb.
Lesser Scaup: max 143 Oswego 17 Dec; 60 OnonL 28 Feb; relatively poor numbers.
Greater/Lesser Scaup: max 240 OswH 10 Feb.
Aythya species: max 500 SVB 9 Dec & 500 OnonL 25 Feb.
King Eider: 2 f. Oswego 3 Jan (BP, ph), one remained thru 9 Jan; f. Phoenix 7 – 11 Jan (GD, mob, ph).
Surf Scoter: OswH 19 Jan – 10 Feb; Fulton 25 – 26 Jan; Scriba 19 Feb; only reports.
White-winged Scoter: max 97 OswH 23 Feb.
Black Scoter: max 6 OnonL 24 Dec; Skan 20 Jan; OswH 25 Jan; only reports.
Long-tailed Duck: 250 OswH 3 Feb; max 800 FH 13 Feb (KM), good number.
Bufflehead: max 50 Tuscarora Lake 2 Dec; 31 Port Ontario 25 Feb.
Com. Goldeneye: max 295 FH 20 Dec; 220 Brew 24 Feb.
Hooded Merganser: max 203 SP 9 Dec (BP); 200 OnonL 17 – 20 Dec (DD, DW), great numbers.
Com. Merganser: 2000 Cross Lake 23 Jan (KM); max 2500 OnonL 25 Feb (DWe); good numbers.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 455 OswH 20 Dec; 122 DH 17 Jan.
Ruddy Duck: max 6 WP 1 Dec; last 2 OnonL 20 Dec; arr 2 Brew 21 Feb; very low numbers.
Ring-necked Pheasant: max 5 Canas 1 Jan; singles 8 locs.
Ruffed Grouse: max 3 Norway 13 Dec & OF 16 Dec & Fabius 21 Jan; 2 WP 26 Feb.
Wild Turkey: 43 Dolge 27 Dec; 52 DB 3 Jan;

max 54 Richland 17 Jan.
Red-throated Loon: max 4 FH 3 Dec; OswH 20-24 Feb; only reports.
Com. Loon: max 5 OswH 4 Dec; 4 OnonL 24 Dec; Rome 27 Dec (JS), grounded; Boonville 31 Dec, vehicle impact; Remsen 11 Jan (JS), vehicle impact; low numbers.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 6 OnonL 9 Dec & 6 OLC 11 Feb; almost all reports from OnonL.
Horned Grebe: 3 FH 3 Dec; max 10 OnonL 12 Jan; Hannibal 7 Jan (JS), expired; Camden 8 Jan (JS), expired.
Red-necked Grebe: max 3 FH 3 Dec & 3 OswH 9 Dec; OswH 6 Jan (JS), grounded; reports from three other locs.
Double-crested Cormorant: 45 OnonL 2 Dec – 9 Jan; max 54 Bville 8 Feb.
Great Blue Heron: 6 Bville 14 Jan; max 9 OLC 29 Jan.
BLACK VULTURE (R5): Fayetteville 4 Dec (DJW); Jamesville 15 Jan (DW); max 2 Jamesville 1 Feb thru (KM, DD, mob). Seen roosting with Turkey Vultures in Fayetteville (TS).
Turkey Vulture: 5 Kirkland 16 Dec (EW), unusual wintering loc; 34 Jamesville 17 Feb; max 65 DH 28 Feb.

HAWKS - LARIDS

Golden Eagle: singles, including several ads from nine locs, all but one apparently wintering.
Bald Eagle: max 40 Cross Lake 23 Jan (KM); 22 Bville 15 Jan; 22 Memphis 26 Jan.
N. Harrier: max 2 Tully 9 Dec; singles from 17 other locs: few in Jan.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 2 DH 28 Feb; widespread reports of singles.
Cooper's Hawk: 2 GLSP 2 Dec; 2 Manlius 6 Dec; max 3 CM 16 Dec; 2 Marcellus 30 Dec; 2 DeRuyter 25 Jan; 2 DH 28 Feb.
N. Goshawk: ad. Mindenville, HERK 14 Feb; ad Remsen 17 Feb; only reports.
Red-shouldered Hawk: SFNS 19 Jan; 2 Lafayette 11 Feb; max 8 DH 28 Feb; only reports.
Red-tailed Hawk: 6 Richfield Springs 17 Feb; max 23 DH 28 Feb.
Rough-legged Hawk: 4 Middleville 17 Feb; 3 Richfield Springs 17 Feb; max 8 DH 21 Feb; relatively few reports from expected areas.
Am. Coot: max 28 OnonL 9 Dec; last GLSP 29 Dec; arr Oswego 24 Feb.
Killdeer: last 2 OnonL 9 Dec; arr OLC & TR 21 Feb; max 5 Meridian 28 Feb.
Purple Sandpiper: Oswego 28 Dec (JG, ER,

ph), late.

Am. Woodcock: CM 16 Dec (DN); arr TR 27 Feb, only reports.

Black-legged Kittiwake: OnonL 17 Dec (DD, DW).

Bonaparte's Gull: max 10 Oneil 9 Dec; last OnonL 22 Jan; only two other reports.

MEW GULL (R5): Minetto 18-19 Jan (JM!, mob, ph), 1st Reg rec.

Iceland Gull: max 16 Bville 3 Feb (GD); most consistent presence on the Seneca River at Bville.

Ring-billed Gull: max 1500 SVB 6 Dec & 1500 Port Byron 22 Feb.

Herring Gull: 1500 SVB 6 Dec; max 3000 Bville 21 Jan.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 5 Bville 22 Jan; OnonL mid-Jan thru.

SLATY-BACKED GULL (R5): Oswego 16 Jan (DW!, mob, ph); individual seen from Fulton to OswH on Oswego river and on Seneca River at Bville, last seen at Bville 7 Feb, 2nd Reg rec, *intro*.

Glaucous Gull: max 4 Oswego 16 – 18 Jan & 4 Bville 9 – 10 Feb; last OLC 23 Feb.

Great Black-backed Gull: 125 Bville 10 Feb; max 229 OnonL 19 Feb.

Herring x Great Black-backed Gull: Fulton 1 – 3 Feb; Phoenix 14 Feb, same individual.

Gull species: max 1000 OnonL 28 Jan.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Rock Pigeon: max 300 Lakeland 21 – 24 Jan; 225 Tully 17 Feb.

Mourning Dove: max 128 Dolge 21 Jan.

E. Screech-Owl: 3 HI 18 Dec; max 4 Skan 31 Dec; 3 South Bay 1 Jan; Bville 12 Feb (JS), vehicle impact; singles from 13 other areas.

Great Horned Owl: 2 TR 8 Dec; 2 Nelson 14 Dec – 28 Jan; Syr 11 Jan (JS), vehicle impact; 2 SNC 13 Jan.

Snowy Owl: Ilion 2 Dec (DS), vehicle strike, treated and released; max 4 OswH 5 Dec; Syr 6 Dec (JS), died from injuries; Bville 24 Dec (JS), vehicle impact; Syr 27 Dec (JS), trapped in building; Syr 2 Jan (JS), injured; 3 Solvay 18 Jan thru.

Barred Owl: 2 Vienna 1 Jan; 2 TR 27 Feb; singles at eight other locs.

Short-eared Owl: arr Syracuse Airport 16 Dec; Pompey 26 Feb; Tully 11 Jan; only reports.

N. Saw-whet Owl: Remsen 26 Dec; Clay 23 – 27 Feb; only reports.

Belted Kingfisher: 2 OnonL 20 Dec; 2 Richfield Springs 21 Dec.

Red-headed Woodpecker: VB 1 Jan; 2 NH Dec thru; only reports.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 7 Fayetteville 16 Dec & 7 SH 11 Feb; 5 BLNC 6 Feb.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 2 Syr 16 Dec; singles at 13 other locs; four reports in Feb.

Downy Woodpecker: max 8 RCFS 17 Dec; 7 SP 22 Feb.

Hairy Woodpecker: max 4 Dolgeville 16 Dec – 4 Jan; SP 22 Feb.

N. Flicker: 4 FH 8 Dec; max 5 Syr 3 Jan; 4 TR 27 Feb.

Pileated Woodpecker: 2 Sterling 21 Dec; 2 Skan 31 Dec; 2 SH 9 Jan; 2 GLSP 11 Feb; 2 TR 27 Feb.

Am. Kestrel: max 2 Mindenville 30 Dec; 2 OnonL 17 Feb; 2 DH 28 Feb.

Merlin: 2 DH 27 Feb; singles at more than 15 other locs; few reports in Jan.

Peregrine Falcon: pairs hold territory Syr & Utica thru; singles at five other locs; max 3 Utica 21 Feb (MP, ph), pair interact with banded ad f. interloper, *intro*.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: around 20 reports of singles mostly in expected areas.

Blue Jay: max 31 Syr 15 Feb; 20

Westmoreland 19 Feb; 16 Dolge 23 Feb.

Am. Crow: 4152 DH 21 Feb; max 10000 Syr 26 Feb.

Fish Crow: 2 Bville 18 Dec – 12 Jan; max 5 Syr 20 Jan.

Com. Raven: 11 Fairfield 10 Dec; max 21 Dolge 17 Dec (BLH), good number; 16 Nelson 26 Jan.

Horned Lark: 70 Paris 15 Dec; max 175 Lebanon, MADI 16 Dec.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 60 New Woodstock CBC 29 Dec; 46 Forestport 17 Feb.

Tufted Titmouse: max 9 SFNS 16 Dec; 7 Fayetteville 26 Feb.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 18 Boylston 9 Dec (BP), good number; 8 Forestport 17 Feb.

White-breasted Nuthatch: 8 SFNS 16 Dec; max 14 HI 12 Feb.

Brown Creeper: 2 BLNC 9 – 24 Dec; 2 Kirkland 16 Dec; 2 Vienna 1 Jan; 2 GLSP 17 Feb.

Winter Wren: Belgium 15 Dec; CM 16 Dec; BLNC 21 Dec; OnonL 12 Jan – 18 Feb; CM 15 Feb.

Carolina Wren: 2 Fayetteville 16 Dec – 26 Feb; 2 Cazenovia 4 Feb; 2 Manlius 21 Feb.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: 6 Gray HERK 2

Feb; max 8 Elbridge 18 Feb.

E. Bluebird: 9 Marcellus 31 Dec; max 10 RCFS 17 Dec.

Hermit Thrush: Hastings 8 Dec; SFNS 14 – 31 Dec; RCFS 17 Dec; SSSP 13 Feb.

Am. Robin: 70 Camillus 25 Jan; max 146 DH 28 Feb.

Gray Catbird: Fayetteville 16 Dec; Canas 1 Jan; DeWitt 12 Feb; only reports.

N. Mockingbird: 2 Syr 9 Jan; 2 Fayetteville 21 Dec; no reports east of Oneida Lake.

European Starling: 1000 SH 11 Jan; 450 Elbridge 18 Feb.

Cedar Waxwing: 100 SFNS 24 Feb; max 120 DH 28 Feb.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: 3 Paris 16 Dec; max 4 DB 1 Jan; 3 Canas 1 Jan; 3 Fabius 8 Jan; last Van Buren 22 Jan.

Snow Bunting: 150 Marshall 3 Jan; 220 Fabius 27 Jan; 400 SH 29 Jan;

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 4 RCFS 17 Dec & FH 3 Jan; Bville 10 Feb; only reports.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: 34 Verona 1 Jan; 37 Dolge 7 Jan.

Fox Sparrow: SH 2 – 5 Jan, only report.

Song Sparrow: 3 SFNS 16 Dec – 10 Feb; max 5 Clay 15 Feb.

Swamp Sparrow: SFNS 14 – 15 Dec; Dolge 21 Jan – 16 Feb; N Bridgewater (ONEI) 1-2 Jan; only reports.

White-throated Sparrow: 9 SFNS 14 Dec; max 13 OnonL 21 Dec.

White-crowned Sparrow: Hannibal 17 Dec;

max 3 DB 8 Jan; RCFS 18 Feb; 9 Feb Lafayette; only reports.

Dark-eyed Junco: 58 Mindenville 13 Dec; max 74 Dolge 12 Feb.

N. Cardinal: 16 Fayetteville 22 Jan; max 21 Elbridge 31 Jan.

INDIGO BUNTING: juv. Syr 30 Dec (via JB, ph).

E. Meadowlark: 2 DH 28 Feb, only report.

Red-winged Blackbird: 45 BLNC 5 Dec; max 3200 DH 21 Feb; 395 TR 25 Feb.

Rusty Blackbird: 4 Waterville 23 Feb, only report.

Com. Grackle: 360 BLNC 5 Dec (DN), high count for date; 100 Pennellville 23 Feb; 200 Memphis 24 Feb; max 470 TR 27 Feb.

Brown-headed Cowbird: 32 Bville 28 Dec; max 40 Elbridge 18 Feb.

Blackbird species: max 500 DH 25 Feb.

Purple Finch: 22 Salisbury 8 Dec; max 40 Forestport 17 Feb.

House Finch: max 46 Fayetteville 22 Jan; 35 Syr 22 Jan.

Com. Redpoll: 2 Camillus 27 Dec; max 12 New Woodstock 29 Dec; three other reports of singles.

Red Crossbill: first Gray (HERK) 28 Jan; 15 Forestport 17 Feb; 6 Atwell, ADK 17 Feb; 6 Ohio 17 Feb; max 9 Eagle Bay, ADK 18 Feb.

Pine Siskin: max 40 Nelson 14 Jan; 40 SH 18 Feb; 37 Cold Brook 18 Feb.

Am. Goldfinch: max 69 New Woodstock 29 Dec; 64 Forestport 17 Feb; 60 Dolge 20 Feb.

Evening Grosbeak: no reports.

House Sparrow: max 80 Syr 26 Dec; 60 Verona 1 Jan.

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REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

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It was another in a series of strange winters, this time brutally cold to start and ending with spring-like weather. December felt more like January or February, as most of Region 6 had mean temperatures for the month that ranged from 3° to more than 7°F colder than normal, and sub-zero temperatures were unusually

common for so early in the winter. January's temperatures were about average in the St. Lawrence Valley but 1-3° cooler than usual elsewhere, but the entire Region was at least 5° to more than 7° above normal for February. Areas east of Lake Ontario received above normal precipitation all three months for a seasonal surplus of 3-6" above normal, but the St. Lawrence Valley had about normal precipitation.

Very cold weather early in December led to rapid icing of most bodies of water, and as a result waterfowl numbers were generally low, and for some species very low. Were it not for a handful of species that lingered into the first few days of December the season's species tally would have been much lower, but sightings such as a Northern Shoveler at the Canton sewage ponds on 1 December and two Canvasbacks at Point Peninsula on 9 December added to a respectable species list. Similarly, Red-throated Loon, Horned Grebe, and Red-necked Grebe all lingered into the first week of the season but weren't seen again. The southbound Snow Goose migration through Region 6 is becoming increasingly hard to figure out. This year very few Snow Geese passed through the Region before December, and very modest numbers came through during the first half of that month, but the large southbound movement that usually passes through the Region never materialized.

Late February saw a nearly exact repeat of a phenomenon that occurred one year previously, with temperatures soaring into the 60s and many short distance migrants arriving very early. For the second year in a row multiple American Woodcock arrived during this warm spell and were heard peenting during the last week of February, a month with no woodcock records prior to 2017. Snow Geese and many other waterfowl species, Turkey Vultures, Killdeer, Ring-billed Gulls, and blackbirds were among the birds that streamed into the Region during this warm weather, contributing to a very spring-like atmosphere to end the season.

Many birders visited northern Jefferson County this winter to look for raptors, resulting in larger than usual numbers of eBird reports for Rough-legged Hawk and Red-tailed Hawk in particular. However, actual numbers of both hawk species were low, and in many places wintering hawks were unusually difficult to find. Northern Shrike numbers have seemed to be in decline for the past few years, but barely more than a dozen reports this season was an especially low total.

Surely the most bizarre report of the season was of a **Purple Gallinule** that was picked up by the side of the road near Lowville in Lewis County on 25 January. There remains some mystery about this report, as it appeared in eBird complete with a photo of the bird, but information I received about who picked it up and the rehabilitator it went to have not proven to be accurate. Rumors that I am still seeking to confirm indicate that this gallinule was in good health and was eventually transported to Florida. But as far as I know, the gallinule was not seen in the wild by any birder.

It was an impressive year for winter irruptives generally, although some species were absent. On the negative side this was only the second winter in the past decade with no Bohemian Waxwing reports. On the other hand, Red Crossbills and Pine Siskins nested in good numbers in the Adirondacks, where White-winged Crossbills were also present but were more locally distributed. The former two species also apparently nested on Fort Drum and locally elsewhere. An Evening Grosbeak heard over the town of Colton on 17 February was the season's only report, and Pine Grosbeaks didn't come south this year either.

Many of the species typically described as "half-hardies" were present in lower than usual numbers, although the tally of such species for the season seemed about average. Present in generally low numbers were Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, and Song Sparrow, typically among the most common of the half-hardies during winter. Conditions in some places resulted in better numbers, for instance a large crop of red cedar berries at Stony Point in the town of Henderson provided food for many American Robins and "Myrtle" Warblers, among other species. Notable half-hardies included Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers at three locations; at least four Red-headed Woodpeckers that successfully overwintered on Fort Drum thanks to abundant acorns; wintering Winter Wrens at Robert Wehle State Park and Kelsey Creek, the latter location also yielding the season's only Gray Catbird on 14 December; Chipping Sparrows from Adams and Colton; a Fox Sparrow at Jacques Cartier State Park on 2 January; a Rose-breasted Grosbeak at a Brownville feeder on 15 December; and a lingering Rusty Blackbird on Point Peninsula on 2 December.

For the season I received reports of 118 species, higher than the most recent 10-year average of 112 species and a pretty good total for a winter that started out so brutally cold. The clear choice for bird of the season based on rarity is Purple Gallinule, but no birders saw it as far as I am aware. Probably the high point of the season for many birders was the abundance of crossbills in the Adirondacks and adjacent areas. Otherwise it was a fairly uneventful winter throughout most of Region 6.

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ABBREVIATIONS

BI – Barnhart I, T Massena; **BRB** – Black River Bay; **BRV** – Black River Valley; **CCSP** – Coles Creek SP; **CV** – T Cape Vincent; **CWF** – Canton Wastewater Treatment Facility; **FD** – Fort Drum Military Installation; **FL** – Fisher’s Landing, T Alexandria; **HP** – Hawkins Pt, T Massena; **JEFF** – Jefferson County; **KC** – Kelsey Creek, T Watertown; **KPSP** – Kring Pt SP; **LWMA** – Lakeview WMA; **MP** – Montario Pt, T Ellisburg; **PilPt** – Pillar Pt; **PtPen** – Point Peninsula; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP; **RWSP** – Robert Wehle SP; **SH** – Sackett’s Harbor; **SLR** – St. Lawrence Ri; **STLA** – St. Lawrence County; **StPt** – Stony Pt, T Henderson; **ULLWMA** – Upper & Lower Lakes WMA; **WBSP** – Westcott Beach SP; **WHWMA** – Wilson Hill WMA.

WATERFOWL - VULTURES

Snow Goose: small flight 1st half Dec; “fall” max 475 T Watertown 13 Dec; spring arr JEFF 24 Feb; spring max 2880 FD 28 Feb.

Mute Swan: max 79 FL 22 Jan.

Trumpeter Swan: max 18 PtPen 21 Dec (ET).

Tundra Swan: max 370 PtPen 2 Dec; last CV 3 Jan.

Wood Duck: arr T Watertown 27 Feb.

Gadwall: max 3 CV 2 Dec, low.

Am. Wigeon: 3 reports 2-3 Dec then none until arr BRV & T Watertown 21 Feb.

Am. Black Duck: max 62 WHWMA 9 Dec.

Mallard: max 134 WHWMA 9 Dec, low.

N. Shoveler: CWF 1 Dec (JBo), only report.

N. Pintail: up to 7/day WHWMA thru 10 Dec then none until arr BRV & T Watertown 21 Feb.

Green-winged Teal: pr FD 4-16 Jan, only report until arr BRV 21 Feb.

Canvasback: 2 PtPen 9 Dec (CN), only report.

Redhead: max 325 FL 22 Jan.

Ring-necked Duck: singles ULLWMA & WHWMA 1 Dec; 2 HP 10 Jan; only reports until arr LWMA 22 Feb.

Greater Scaup: max 15 FL 20 Jan, low.

Lesser Scaup: max 14 WHWMA 1 Dec; last 2 SH 16 Dec.

White-winged Scoter: 13 reports 1-3 L Ontario & SLR

Long-tailed Duck: max 350 MP 10-17 Feb.

Bufflehead: max 76 PtPen 4 Dec.

Com. Goldeneye: max 860 Chaumont Bay 2 Dec.

Barrow’s Goldeneye: m FL 2 Jan (JBo) joined by f 16-22 Jan (NL); m & f PtPen 22 Jan (NL).

Hooded Merganser: max 105 T Lyme 11 Dec.

Com. Merganser: max 235 Oak Pt T Hammond 22 Dec.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 82 BI 3 Dec.

Red-throated Loon: max 3 BRB 2 Dec; last BRB 4 Dec.

Com. Loon: max 6 SLR T Massena 2 Dec; last HP 27 Dec.

Pied-billed Grebe: T Alexandria 20 Dec (ML), only report.

Horned Grebe: 4 reports L Ontario shoreline 2 Dec, only reports.

Red-necked Grebe: last CCSP 9 Dec.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 7 CCSP 1 Dec; last T Alexandria 19 Dec.

Great Blue Heron: ULLWMA thru 15 Jan; last KC thru 2 Feb; only reports after 10 Dec.

Turkey Vulture: several reports between T Hounsfield & FD thru 29 Jan (GS, JBo), perhaps the same individual; arr T Watertown 28 Feb.

HAWKS - LARIDS

N. Harrier: Fish Creek WMA 4 Feb, only report between 11 Dec & arr 21 Feb.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 7 reports eBird.

Cooper’s Hawk: 19 reports eBird.

N. Goshawk: Lisbon Swamp 26 Dec; T Pinckney 21 Jan; FD 1 & 21 Feb; T Colton 18 Feb.

Red-shouldered Hawk: T Canton 14 Jan (BD); T Philadelphia 9 Feb (JBo); rare but increasing in winter.

Red-tailed Hawk: fewer than usual.

Rough-legged Hawk: many reports 1-5/day NW JEFF & N-central STLA; numbers generally low.

PURPLE GALLINULE: picked up T Lowville roadside 25 Jan, *intro*.

Am. Coot: T Hounsfield 16 Dec (JBo), only report.

Killdeer: arr FD 28 Feb.

Am. Woodcock: FD 4 Dec (JB) & T Watertown 9 Dec (MR) late; arr T Dekalb 28 Feb would be record late were it not for similar arr 2017.

Ring-billed Gull: up to 12/day Lake Ontario shoreline thru; scarce elsewhere after 10 Dec until widespread arr 21-28 Feb.

Herring Gull: max 850 BI 3 Dec.

Iceland Gull: max 4 HP 7 Jan.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: PtPen 9 Dec (CN); several reports HP & BI thru 23 Dec (JB); only reports.

Glaucous Gull: max 29 HP 7 Jan, where last 21 Jan; no reports anywhere else R6.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 190 HP 3 Dec.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

E. Screech-Owl: 2 T Pinckney 23 Jan, only report.

Snowy Owl: 60+ individuals from open areas throughout; max up to 6/day NW JEFF.

Short-eared Owl: 2 T Henderson 9 Dec (NY), only report.

N. Saw-whet Owl: T Parishville & Long Pond T Piercefield 22 Feb, only reports.

Belted Kingfisher: KPSP 19 Dec; KC & ULLWMA 24 Dec; only reports until T Parishville 17 Feb.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 4 ad FD thru.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: RWSP 3 Dec (BB); T Lyme 10 Jan (BM); 2 StPt 15 Jan (JBo, photos!); more than usual.

N. Flicker: 16 reports mostly W JEFF and along SLR; max 3 RWSP 11 Jan.

Am. Kestrel: T Henderson 25 Jan, only report after 11 Dec.

Merlin: 12 reports.

Peregrine Falcon: T Lyme 2 Dec & CV 4 Dec, only reports away from T Watertown & RMSP where resident.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: only 13 reports; very low.

Horned Lark: max 220 Sand Road T Hammond 2 Jan; many fewer reports than usual.

Winter Wren: RWSP 3 Dec (BB); KC thru 21 Feb (RB); becoming annual in winter.

E. Bluebird: 5 reports; max 3 LWMA 24 Feb; low.

Am. Robin: max 130 StPt 15 Jan, where good numbers thru; low numbers throughout rest of R6.

Gray Catbird: KC 14 Dec (RB), only report.

N. Mockingbird: PilPt & T Hounsfield both 16 Dec (JBo), only reports.

Bohemian Waxwing: no reports for just 2nd winter since 2007.

Cedar Waxwing: max 36 StPt 15 Jan; generally scarce.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: 4 reports of 1-2 each.

Snow Bunting: max 300 T Hammond 2 Jan & T Ellisburg 15 Jan.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 14 StPt 15 Jan (JBo); only other reports 2 WBSP 3 Dec (GS) & T Hounsfield 16 Dec (JBo).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: T Brownville 15 Dec (ET), rare in winter.

Chipping Sparrow: T Colton 1 Jan (JBa); T Adams 17 Jan (SW); becoming annual in winter.

Fox Sparrow: JCSP 2 Jan (JB, photos!), only report.

Song Sparrow: 13 reports, below average year.

Swamp Sparrow: 3 reports all N STLA more than average.

White-throated Sparrow: max 12 KC 1 Jan; about average.

Red-winged Blackbird: T Potsdam 13 Dec, only report until 1 T Massena 16 Feb; widespread arr 22 Feb thru.

Com. Grackle: T Clifton 1 Jan, only report until 18 Feb; widespread arr 24 Feb thru.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 110 T Waddington 1 Dec; 3 reports Jan & Feb.

Rusty Blackbird: PtPen 2 Dec, only report.

Purple Finch: scarce many locations but locally common Adirondacks & L Ontario shore.

Red Crossbill: widespread Adirondacks, Tug Hill, & Fort Drum.

White-winged Crossbill: max 8 Peavine Swamp 17 Feb; much less widespread than Red Crossbill.

Pine Siskin: abundant Adirondacks thru but spottily distributed at lower elevations.

Evening Grosbeak: T Colton 17 Feb, only report.

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REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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With the exception of an extremely deep cold snap between 27 December and 15 January temperatures for the season were above normal. The monthly averages discussed below tend to smooth out this dip. The below-average temperatures at the end of November moderated through most of December only to move to extreme subzero readings. Negative twenties and even thirties were seen daily from the last days of the month into the middle of January. There was, however, a sharp rise in temperature on 11-12 January. In some places it was -30°F one day and raining heavily enough to wash out driveways the next. Temperature swings of up to 80° were noted. With this exception, high temperatures often failed to reach positive numbers. Overall December temperatures were 3° to 5° below normal in the St Lawrence and Champlain Valleys. In the Adirondacks they averaged 7° or more lower than normal. In the last half of January temperatures moderated enough that the monthly averages were only 3° below normal. This warming trend continued into February, where temperatures for the month averaged 5° to 7° above normal. It is interesting to note that feeder watchers reported many lingering sparrow species. Most notably White-throated and Fox Sparrows may have over-wintered. This warming would also have been a welcome and welcoming trend for the Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles, which returned the last two days of the month.

Precipitation (liquid equivalent) totals for December ranged from 4-5" the southwest corner of Hamilton Co. to 3-4" in the balance of Hamilton and the adjacent portion of Essex Co. and 2-3" in the remainder of Region 7. A heavy snow storm on 26 December dropped up to 20" in the Adirondacks a week after a heavy rain on 19 December. On the whole, January's cold didn't reduce precipitation. Totals in the mountains averaged nearly 5" while those in the Champlain Valley were somewhat lower at from 2-4". Up to 4" of snow was recorded on 3 January, but the big contributor was 4" of rain on 11 January. In February precipitation across the Region was close to 2" with only slight variation one way or the other. Snow falls of 9" on 7 February and 6" on 10 and 11 February in the Champlain Valley were significantly heavier in the Adirondacks.

The winter finch forecast proved accurate. As predicted, both crossbills and Pine Siskin were prevalent throughout the Adirondacks but less so in Clinton Co. Though expected to stay north, Purple Finch was present in good numbers. Common Redpoll (7 reports, 30 max), Hoary Redpoll (0 reports), Pine Grosbeak (4 reports, 2 max), and Evening Grosbeak (8 reports, 2 max), as predicted did not venture this far south in significant numbers.

Significant freezing of Lake Champlain began in mid December, early enough to adversely affect the number of waterfowl species observed on the Plattsburgh CBC. Notable misses included both scaup, Hooded Merganser, and Bufflehead. The three weeks of sub-zero deep freeze caused a complete ice-over from Rouses Point to Cumberland Head, and on the annual January Waterfowl Count also covered the limited open areas south to Ausable Point with an impenetrable blanket of “steam” from condensation in the super cold air. Only five species and 270 individuals were reported from northern Lake Champlain, while 1,617 individuals of fourteen species were reported from the southern end. Once again Lake Champlain did not freeze solid this winter. In recent years this has become the rule, where before it was the exception.

Region 7 CBC highlights include Ring-necked Pheasant from the NY side of the Ferrisburgh, VT count. The Elizabethtown CBC included Snow Goose, Gray Catbird, and eight White-throated Sparrows—a number indicative of the unusual numbers of lingering sparrows observed throughout Region 7. The Saranac Lake count had Rusty Blackbird for only the fourth time in 62 years and, rare for the count, Wilson’s Snipe, Fox Sparrow, and House Finch. The NY side of the Champlain Islands, VT count’s most notable bird was an E. Screech Owl. Plattsburgh’s CBC included Snowy Owl and Gyrfalcon detailed below.

The highlight of the season was a white phase GYRFALCON seen on 13 and 16-17 December at locations approximately four miles apart. Found on both occasions by women (ABd & TF) more interested in photography than birds, its presence was announced with both perched and in-flight photos. On 16 December Michael Burgess and Bill Krueger observed a brief talon-to-talon interaction between it and a Rough-legged Hawk.

SNOWY OWL was present throughout, with records from before 1 December and into March with one additional sighting in April. At least five individuals were seen from Crown Point to Rouses Point with a sixth in Saranac Lake, making this the biggest irruption since the winter of 2013-2014.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AH – Angier Hill Rd; **AP** – Ausable Pt campground; **APw** – Ausable Pt WMA; **BPW** – Beaver Pd Way; **BKT** – Beekmantown; **BB** – Bloomingdale Bog; **BR** – Bull Rock Rd; **CB** – Cole Bay; **CH** – Cumberland Head; **CP** – Crown Pt; **CR** – Chazy Riverlands; **DR** – Deer Ri; **Del** – Delano Rd; **DRd** – Dudley Rd; **EC** – Essex Church Yard; **HB** – Hoisington Beach; **FC** – Fort Covington; **IN** – Inlet; **LA** – Lake Abanakee; **LC** – Lake Colby; **LR** – Limekiln Road; **LL** – Long L; **MT** – Majic Triangle; **MA** – Malone; **MR** – Maple Meadows; **MF** – Miner Farm; **MR** – Moffitt Rd; **MB** – Monty’s Bay; **NE** – Newcomb; **NP** – Noblewood P; **NFR** – N. Farm Rd; **ON** – Onchiota; **PI** – Plattsburgh; **PtF** – Point au Fer; **PtR** – Point au Roche; **PH** – Port Henry; **PK** – Port Kent; **RR** – Reynolds Rd; **RB** – Riley Brook; **RW** – Rugar Woods; **StH** – St. Home; **SH** – St. Huberts; **SPM** – Sand Pd Marsh; **SB** – Sandy Beach; **SRm** – Saranac Ri mouth; **SR** – Sawyer Rd; **SLB** – Silver L Bog; **Ti** – Ticonderoga; **TB** – Trombly Bay; **TL** – Tupper Lake; **WP** – Westport.

WATERFOWL - VULTURES

Snow Goose: 3000 PI 14 Dec (GCh); 2000 PI 25 Feb (NO).
Cackling Goose: CH 3 Dec (BK).
Canada Goose: 65 PH 17 Dec (SR).
TUNDRA SWAN (R7): 3 PH 13 Dec (SR).
Wood Duck: CP 1 Dec (JP).
Gadwall: 11 CP 7 Dec (SR); AP 3 Feb (AB).
Am. Wigeon: 2 WP 2 Dec (J&PT).
Am. Black Duck: 300 SRm 1 Feb (SR).
Mallard: 1200 SRm 1 Feb (SR).
N. Pintail: HB 30 Dec (SR); SRm 1 Feb (SR).
Canvasback: PH 17 Dec (SR).
Redhead: 8 AP 3 Feb (BMc).
Ring-necked Duck: LA 9 Dec (MM); 14 WB 14 Jan (SR).
Greater Scaup: 9 WP 24 Feb (SR).
Lesser Scaup: PK 25 Jan (SR).
White-winged Scoter: 4 CP 7 Dec (SR).
Black Scoter: PL 7 Dec (BK).
Long-tailed Duck: TL 11 Dec (SR).
Bufflehead: 108 NP 4 Dec (SR); 26 CP 14 Jan (SR).
Com. Goldeneye: 951 CP 14 Jan (SR).
Barrow’s Goldeneye: 3 WD 9 Dec (SR); CP 14 Jan (SR).
Hooded Merganser: 34 TL 11 Dec (SR).
Com. Merganser: 400 HB 30 Dec (JD).
Red-breasted Merganser: CH 3 Dec (BK).
Ring-necked Pheasant: AH 13 Dec (SR).
Ruffed Grouse: SC 17 Feb (JC).
Wild Turkey: 20 MA 21 Jan (AB).

Red-throated Loon: RP 3 Dec (GC); 2 WB 9 Jan (SR).

Com. Loon: CH 1 Dec (SJ).

Pied-billed Grebe: CP 7 Dec (SR).

Horned Grebe: 27 NP 4 Dec (SR); 15 CP 14 Jan (SR).

Red-necked Grebe: 2 NP 4 Dec (SR).

Double-crested Cormorant: CH 3 Dec (BK); 8 PH 17 Dec (SR).

Great Blue Heron: SB 19 Dec (SR).

Green Heron: 11 Dec, late.

Black Vulture: 2 Ti 28 Feb (SR).

Turkey Vulture: Ti 28 Feb (SR).

HAWKS - LARIDS

Bald Eagle: 2 LL 11 Dec (JC); 4 PH 17 Dec (SR).

N. Harrier: MR 17 Dec (EB, LL); BKT 4 Jan (SR).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: MA 13 Jan (JT); Ham 9 Feb (GL).

Cooper’s Hawk: MR 17 Dec (BMc, CP); CH 30 Jan (NO).

N. Goshawk: LL 18 Feb (JMc).

Red-shouldered Hawk: WD 26 Dec (MD, TH).

Red-tailed Hawk: 3 MA 21 Jan (AB).

Rough-legged Hawk: 2 MB 26 Dec (TH).

Am. Coot: 8 CP 7 Dec (SR).

Wilson’s Snipe: NE 1 Jan (LM).

Ring-billed Gull: 67 NP 4 Dec (SR).

Herring Gull: 18 NP 4 Dec (SR).

Iceland Gull: SRm 16 Dec (BK, SR); HB 30 Dec (SR).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1 Jan

Glaucous Gull: WD 15 Dec (BMc); SRm 26 Dec (SR); HB 30 Dec (RB).

Great Black-backed Gull: 28 Pl 14 Dec (GCh).

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Mourning Dove: 2 MA 13 Jan (JT).

E. Screech-Owl: PtR 17 Dec (ABl).

Great Horned Owl: MO 28 Feb (SR).

Snowy Owl: NFR 1 Dec (ABd); 2 MR 16 Feb (NO); irruption year, *intro*.

Barred Owl: IN 10 Feb (GL).

Short-eared Owl: CP 9 Dec (MC); SR 3 Feb (SR).

N. Saw-whet Owl: LC 15 Feb (ABl).

Belted Kingfisher: CH 20 Dec (BK); WP 24 Feb (SR).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: 2 CP 7 Dec (SR).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: EC 21 Dec (SR).

Downy Woodpecker: LA 28 Feb (MM).

Hairy Woodpecker: LA 28 Feb (MM).

Black-backed Woodpecker: 3 SC 17 Feb (JC).

N. Flicker: FC 21 Jan (AB).

Pileated Woodpecker: NP 4 Dec (SR).

Am. Kestrel: RB 14 Dec (BK).

Merlin: RR 31 Dec (TF, DR).

GYRFALCON (white morph): RB 13 Dec (TF); MR 16 Dec (ABd, BK, MB); MR 17 Dec (ABd); *intro*.

Peregrine Falcon: AR 16 Dec (SJ).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: Peru 17 Dec (LL).

Gray Jay: 10 LL 17 Feb (JC).

Blue Jay: 5 CP 7 Dec (SR).

Am. Crow: 750 MR 16 Dec (MB, BK).

Com. Raven: Essex 13 Dec (J&PT).

Horned Lark: 40 RR 14 Dec (BK); 120 MA 21 Jan (AB).

Black-capped Chickadee: 8 NP 4 Dec (SR).

Boreal Chickadee: 20+ SPM 22 Feb (JC).

Tufted Titmouse: MA 30 Dec (JS).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: LL 9 Dec (JC).

White-breasted Nuthatch: 21 RR 17 Feb (SM).

Brown Creeper: LL 9 Dec (JC).

Winter Wren: MM 3 Jan (SR).

Carolina Wren: CH 8 Jan (NO).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: LL 9 Dec (JC).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: CP 7 Dec (SR), rare in winter.

E. Bluebird: 5 AP 18 Feb (BB).

Am. Robin: 12 CH 8 Jan (NO).

N. Mockingbird: DRd 21 Dec (SR).

European Starling: 45 WP 17 Feb (J&PT).

Am. Pipit: 24 Dec, late.

Cedar Waxwing: 50 LL 22 Dec (JC).

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: 11 MA 21 Jan (AB); 2 NFR 10 Feb (BK).

Snow Bunting: 100 MR 16 Dec (ABd, MB).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 2 MT 4 Dec (J&PT).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: 21 RB 14 Dec (BK).

Savannah Sparrow: 5 17 Dec.

Chipping Sparrow: BR 21 Dec (GCh).

Fox Sparrow: SL 23 Dec - 1 Feb (AB); MM 15 Feb (SR).

Song Sparrow: BR 21 Dec (GCh).

White-throated Sparrow: SL thru (AB).

Dark-eyed Junco: 8 CH 17 Feb (NO); 42 Ham 31 Dec (GL).

N. Cardinal: 6 CH 18 Feb (NO).

Red-winged Blackbird: BR 21 Dec (GCh).

E. Meadowlark: Del 27 Dec (SR).

Rusty Blackbird: NE 30 Dec (BMc, JD).

Brown-headed Cowbird: 4 MA 21 Jan (AB).

House Finch: 10 LL 20 Jan (KM).

Purple Finch: 2 LR 17 Feb (GL).

Red Crossbill: 20 SPM 3 Dec (JC); 11 LR 17 Feb (GL).

White-winged Crossbill: 27 BR 21 Dec (SR).

Com. Redpoll: 4 ON 21 Jan (AB); BPW 16 Feb (MN).

Pine Siskin: 3 LR 24 Feb (GL); 20 ON 21 Jan (AB).

Evening Grosbeak: NE 21 Jan (JC).

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REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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December 2017 was cold and dry. Temperatures were 3.7°F below average, and precipitation was one inch less than normal. There was a cold spell mid-month that began to freeze over major bodies of water, but the last six days of the year were frigid, averaging 18° below normal at Albany. Twelve inches of snow were recorded, mostly falling in small amounts, with snow depths of 3-4" at month's end. The first week of 2018 continued with the unrelenting cold conditions, 15° below normal and adding 5" of snow. The pendulum swung the other direction the following week, with the high temperature topping out at 63° on the 12th of January. Snow cover was absent for a few days mid-month, but a new storm brought 7" of snow to Albany. The last two weeks of January featured well-above normal temperatures, snow cover vanished, and the month ended up statistically near normal for both temperature and precipitation, despite the wild swings making up the numbers. February 2018 turned out much warmer and wetter than the long-term average, 6.5° above normal with about an inch more precipitation than usual. The last two weeks of the month were exceptionally mild, with a maximum of 73° on the 21st. 14" of snow fell during February, but at month's end the ground was bare once again.

The Regional trend of increasing numbers of unusual winter geese continued. On 6 December Rich Guthrie showed up at his location for the Winter Raptor Survey in Cossackie, Greene County and found a **Pink-footed Goose** among a flock of Canada Geese in some corn stubble. On 21 February, Naomi Lloyd discovered two **Ross's Geese** swimming among Canada Geese on the Hudson River near Fort Miller, Washington County. Finally, between 13 February and 28 February as many as three **Greater White-fronted Geese** were reported from multiple locations between southern Rensselaer County and Ft. Miller in Washington County. It was not apparent if this represented one group of transient birds, or whether they were more widespread individuals. With the warm weather in the latter half of February, countless flocks of geese were seen overhead flying northward.

Waterfowl surveys were difficult after the big freeze in late December. For much of the next two months, there was very limited open water, and access to it, other than the traditional fast-moving water along the Mohawk and Hudson Rivers. Reports seem to indicate lower numbers and diversity than normal, although things improved markedly at the end of February.

Winter raptor numbers offered a mixed bag. Northern Harrier was common throughout the Region, with as many as five individuals reported from a single location. Mid-winter reports of Golden Eagle were confined to Columbia and Washington Counties. Bald Eagle reports were common, with some high group

numbers later in winter. Rough-legged Hawk numbers seemed higher than in recent seasons, with as many as eight observed at the Ft. Edward grasslands in Washington County.

It was another Snowy Owl irruption year. First reports occurred in early December, with birds being reported areawide by the end of the month. As many as four Snowy Owls were observed at one time from Albany International Airport in early January. A **Long-eared Owl** was a bonus prize for two birders staking-out the **Harris's Sparrow** near Altamont in late February. Short-eared Owls were alarmingly absent from most of the Region and occurred in small numbers where they were seen.

Northern Shrike and Lapland Longspur were seen in typical numbers and locations.

A marsh location in Stuyvesant, Columbia County likely harbored a very rare instance of Virginia Rail overwintering away from the coast. Observers had detected a bird on the local CBC in December 2016, and did so again in December 2017, with two individuals responding to playback simultaneously. In early February 2018, one rail was still detected. As Bill Cook summarizes it for the Alan DeVoe BC publication, *The Warbler*, "Chris Franks, Drew Hopkins and Timothy O'Connor suggest that Virginia Rail may be overwintering in the mid-Hudson River Valley which has not previously been documented. They have monitored a bird or two in a marsh in Stuyvesant in late December and early February. They point out that in John Bull's *Birds of New York State* mention is made that records from the Rochester area in late winter through early spring indicate that overwintering may be successful in upstate New York. This species is still considered rare in upstate New York during the winter."

An unusual winter report of 39 American Coot came from Larry Hall in late January, from the East Branch of the Sacandaga River in northwestern Warren County.

Winter gull diversity was augmented by the presence of Iceland, Glaucous, and Lesser Black-backed Gulls. As many as five Iceland Gulls, all first-cycle birds, were observed along the Mohawk River in the Cohoes-to-Crescent corridor. Glaucous Gull was harder to find, but up to three individuals were reported, including some observations from Montgomery County. A report of three Lesser Black-backed Gulls was received from Tom Schmidt, observing from the Fulton County landfill. A single adult bird was detected from time to time along the Mohawk-Hudson corridor.

American Kestrels were reported in low numbers throughout the winter, mainly from the agricultural areas of Fulton, Montgomery, Schoharie, Saratoga, Washington, and Columbia Counties. Merlins were present as well, primarily along the Hudson River corridor and in the Mohawk Valley.

A **Harris's Sparrow** was discovered by Larry Alden on a morning walk near Altamont in Albany County as he participated in the Great Backyard Bird Count on 16 February. The sparrow was favoring a shrubby area adjacent to a

home with bird feeders, where it periodically foraged in the open. It lingered until at least the 24th of the month, allowing birders from across the state to observe this rarity.

Red Crossbills were much more abundant than usual during the winter of 2017-2018. Many of the reports were from northern Saratoga, Warren, and Washington Counties. A group of localized breeders continued to inhabit higher elevation forest land in Schoharie and Albany Counties, where the birds were photographed, recorded, and studied extensively. Matt Young from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology visited the flock in Burnt-Rossman Hills SF (Schoharie) and identified three type-calls (Types 1, 4, and 5) among those birds. The Rensselaerville SF (Albany) birds were identified as Type 1 (Appalachian). They were still present at the end of February.

Bob Yunick submitted his field notes for the Winter 2017-2018 period, from which I have excerpted some interesting observations below:

The following are observations from my feeding/banding operations in the Schenectady, NY area: 1) feeder in my yard (yard) at Sch'dy; 2) my Adirondack feeding/banding operation at Jenny Lake (JL) at 1250 ft elevation near Corinth in northern Saratoga Co, NY.

The weather without doubt took top billing followed by the scarcity of birds. A polar vortex in Dec brought lasting intense cold creating thick ice on the Mohawk followed by a great thaw on 1/12/18 causing both a 17-mi ice jam to form upstream from Tribe's Hill to Sch'dy, and extremely rapid flows and high water east of Sch'dy to produce a record low count of waterfowl on the WFC, 1/14/18, due to the lack of open water and where open the excessive current. Only 255 waterfowl were counted, a record low; including only 2 Canada Geese, fast moving water does not seem to suit their golf course style.

The scarcity of birds at feeders that became apparent in Oct-Nov continued unabated in Dec-Feb especially at JL where the cone crop was the largest in decades. Five banding sessions there were disappointing as follows. In each instance I erected 2 ½ mist nets, one at each of three sunflower seed feeders.

Date	Hrs nets in place	Catch
12/18	2 hr 5 min	zero, and not a bird seen
1/19	2 hr 15 min	1 Blue Jay and 33 D-e Juncos
1/26	1 hr 20 min	zero, again not a bird seen
2/17	2 hr	1 Red-b Woodpecker and 1 Blk-c Chickadee (first banded since 2 in Jul!) and 2 repeat juncos from 1/19.
2/24	2 hr 15 min	zero, and not a bird seen

Normally these feeders would have chickadees and Red-breasted Nuthatches frequently if not constantly present. The last Red-breasted Nuthatch captured was in Jun and none has been seen since then. One White-breasted Nuthatch was heard on 2/17. In 49 years of year-round banding at this site, I have never experienced a winter like this. Chickadees are an irruptive species and in non-irruptive years at JL my catch has been 20-35 for the year running 7/1 to 6/30 the following year. In years of irruption, annual catches on that same Jul to Jun schedule could exceed 300 (best was 388 in 1980-81). This year's total of 3 imm. banded so far since 7/1 without a single return bird from a previous year is unprecedented.

The **Jan junco phenomenon** is also unprecedented and caused me to wonder if juncos stage intra-seasonal migrations. Prior to the juncos captured on 1/19, the previous captures were a juv. on 8/5/17 and prior to that a last spring migrant on 4/24/17. When I arrived at JL on 1/19, the snow on the ground was swarming with juncos; I banded 33 and there were still others not banded when I left. What was extraordinary beside their sudden appearance in those numbers was the extent of their **fat deposits**. First, their age/sex distribution was as follows.

Age/Sex	SY	ASY	Total
M	13	12	25
F	2	6	8
Total	15	18	33

Their fat class scores (range of 0, none to 3, bulging) were as follows:
FC0 1; FC1 4; FC2 11; FC3 17.

Thirteen of these birds weighed over 25 g, the heaviest 29.2 g. Some of these heavy birds had difficulty flying. When flushed they flew low to the ground and only short distances. The following week on 1/26 I did not see a one. On 2/21 I caught 2 of those birds banded on 1/19, an SY/M and ASY/M carrying far less fat.

When banded	When recaptured	Change
ASY/M FC2 24.7g	FC1 18.3g	-6.4g or 25.9 %
SY/M FC3 26.5g	FC2 22.8g	-3.3g or 12.5 %

The questions remain: where did they come from and where did they go? The swarming of juncos at JL on 1/19 was not just a JL event. As I drove N from home in Sch'dy that day, at about half way as elevation began to increase I began seeing occasional groups of 1-3 juncos flush from the roadside. When I came to Corinth and began ascending West Mountain going from ~650ft to ~1400ft the number of flocks increased as did their size to 4-6 at a time. Prior to the arrival of these juncos, sunflower seed consumption was averaging below 10 g/day due to the scarcity of chickadees and nuthatches rising to 345 g/day when the juncos were present...

133 species were reported during the period.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

APBP – Albany Pine Bush Preserve, ALBA; **AR** – Alcove Res, ALBA; **BCM** – Black Creek Marsh, ALBA; **BCR** – Basic Creek Res, ALBA; **BMB** – Bog Meadow Brook Nature Trail, SARA; **CCGP** – Cocksackie Creek Grasslands Preserve, GREE; **CF** – Cohoes Flats, ALBA; **CL** – Collins L, SCHE; **CRM** – Cline Rd. Marsh, FULT; **FR** – Five Rivers EEC, ALBA; **FtEG** – Ft. Edward Grasslands, WASH; **FV** – Franklinton Vlaie, SCHO; **HP** – Huyck Preserve, ALBA; **OCA** – Ooms Conservation Area, COLU; **PRWMA** – Partridge Run WMA, ALBA; **SNHP** – Saratoga National Historical P, SARA; **TR** – Tomhannock Res, RENN; **VFNHP** – Vischer Ferry Nature & Historic Preserve, SARA; **WMP** – Wilson M. Powell Wildlife Sanctuary, COLU.

WATERFOWL - VULTURES

Snow Goose: max 2000 TR 14 Dec.
Greater White-fronted Goose: max 3 Schodack RENS 26 Feb.
Mute Swan: max 4 Germantown COLU 7 Dec.
Wood Duck: arr Crescent Power Plant ALBA 17 Feb.
Gadwall: arr Corning Riverfront Pres ALBA 17 Feb.
Am. Wigeon: arr VFNHP 21 Feb.
N. Pintail: arr Cohoes-Crescent Rd. ALBA 20 Feb.
Green-winged Teal: arr Schaghticoke RENS 21 Feb.
Canvasback: max 6 Schoharie Crossing SHS 22 Feb.
Redhead: max 30 Johnsbury WARR 26 Jan.
Ring-necked Duck: arr Ft Miller WASH 21 Feb.
Com. Goldeneye: max 251 Saratoga L SARA 14 Dec.
Hooded Merganser: max 210 Saratoga L SARA 19 Dec.
Com. Merganser: max 3000 TR 14 Dec.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 5 Saratoga L SARA 14 Dec.
Ruddy Duck: max 262 BCR 2 Dec.
Wild Turkey: max 90 Chatham COLU 21 Jan.
Horned Grebe: last Copake L COLU 11 Dec.

Red-necked Grebe: last Saratoga L SARA 9 Dec.
Double-crested Cormorant: last Saratoga CBC SARA 14 Dec.
Black Vulture: max 76 Guilderland ALBA 16 Feb.
Turkey Vulture: arr Hudson COLU 17 Feb.

HAWKS – LARIDS

Golden Eagle: 6 reports COLU, RENS, MONT, WASH.
N. Harrier: max 5 Duanesburg SCHO 19 Dec; FtEG 3 Feb.
Bald Eagle: max 45 South Bay WASH 28 Feb.
Rough-legged Hawk: max 8 FtEG 16 Feb.
Virginia Rail: 2 nr Stuyvesant COLU 16 Dec.
Am. Coot: max 39 Johnsbury WARR 26 Jan.
Killdeer: arr Schodack RENS 27 Feb.
Am. Woodcock: arr Livingston COLU 27 Feb.
Ring-billed Gull: max 700 TR 14 Dec.
Herring Gull: max 800 Crescent Pk SARA 24 Jan.
Iceland Gull: max 6 Fultonville MONT 26 Jan.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 3 Fulton Co Landfill FULT 2 Feb.
Glaucous Gull: max 3 Crescent Power Plant ALBA 3 Jan.
Great Black-backed Gull: max 200 Crescent Pk SARA 24 Jan.

PIGEONS – PARROTS

Snowy Owl: max 4 Albany Int Airport ALBA 3 Jan.

Long-eared Owl: nr Altamont ALBA 21 Feb.

Short-eared Owl: max 3 Minden MONT 17 Feb.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: 8 reports areawide.

Horned Lark: max 350 T Northumberland SARA 8 Jan.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 24 Wilton Wildlife Pres SARA 24 Feb.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: last 3 Stockport Flats COLU 16 Dec.

E. Bluebird: max 25 Gansevoort SARA 17 Feb.

Gray Catbird: last Guilderland ALBA 28 Dec.

Am. Pipit: max 15 Livingston COLU 9 Dec.

Cedar Waxwing: max 94 AR 17 Dec.

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Snow Bunting: max 400 Ft Plain MONT 19 Feb.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 6 Stockport Flats COLU 16 Dec.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: max 35 Lions Pk SCHE 1 Dec.

Field Sparrow: last Stockport COLU 19 Dec.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 80 T Wright SCHO 2 Jan.

HARRIS'S SPARROW: nr Altamont ALBA 16-24 Feb (LA).

White-throated Sparrow: max 51 Claverack COLU 22 Dec.

Savannah Sparrow: max 9 Germantown COLU 10 Jan.

Song Sparrow: max 21 Roeliff Jansen Pk COLU 28 Feb.

Swamp Sparrow: last Minden MONT 25 Jan.

E. Towhee: last Schaghticoke RENS 30 Dec.

E. Meadowlark: Kinderhook COLU 27 Dec, only report.

Rusty Blackbird: max 11 Brunswick RENS 6 Jan.

Com. Redpoll: nr Guilderland ALBA 3 Nov, only report.

Red Crossbill: max 13 Rensselaerville SF ALBA 30 Jan.

Pine Siskin: max 29 Rensselaerville SF ALBA 29 Jan.

Am. Goldfinch: max 115 Spring Run Trail SARA 21 Jan.



REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

No report was received for this season.

REGION 10 - MARINE

Derek H. Rogers

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Winter weather in Region 10 began with mild conditions. Birders enjoyed temperatures ranging as high as 60°F in earlier parts of December with temperature fluctuations of up to 50° persisting through 23 December. This, however, barely prepared us for the arctic-like conditions that would eventually envelop the Region for a brutal, fourteen-day stretch from 26 December through 8 January. While true temperatures never dipped below 0°, there were several consecutive days with wind chill factors dropping below -10° bringing forth severe conditions. The temperature never climbed above freezing during this memorable event and for the first time in many years the Great South Bay was completely frozen at its widest point where tiny pockets of open water hosted dense congregations of waterfowl. Despite the warm start of the season, the severe cold tipped the balance and bucked the warming trend, and temperatures averaged below normal in both December and January as recorded at Central Park and Islip's weather stations. February brought forth more mild conditions where temperature departures of +6.7° and +6.3° were recorded at Central Park and Islip's weather stations, respectively.

	Central Park			Islip		
Temp	Mean	Normal	Deviation	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Dec	35.0°	37.5°	-2.5°	33.8°	35.6°	-1.8°
Jan	31.7°	32.6°	-0.9°	30.1°	30.6°	-0.5°
Feb	42.0°	35.3°	+6.7°	39.1°	32.8°	+6.3°

	Central Park			Islip		
Precip	Total	Normal	Deviation	Total	Normal	Deviation
Dec	2.21"	4.00"	-1.79"	2.12"	4.06"	-1.94"
Jan	2.18"	3.65"	-1.47"	3.74"	3.64"	+0.10"
Feb	5.83"	3.09"	+2.74"	6.21"	3.26"	+2.95"

The season opened with some exciting **Bonaparte's Gull** activity, something the Region has not experienced in a very long time, with huge numbers of birds feeding on lingering bait balls of anchovies off western Long Island's productive inlets and beach fronts. Four thousand individuals were estimated on 2 December from Jacob Riis Park and an additional three thousand

individuals recorded from Robert Moses State Park (RMSP) on the same date. Among the interesting birds found within these dense feeding frenzies were two **Parasitic Jaegers**, one seen from RMSP on 2 December and another at Jones Beach on 3 December, possibly the same individual patrolling the coastline and working the flocks of feeding gulls. The **Black-legged Kittiwake** high count of the season came on 5 December from RMSP with 10 individuals seen joining the Bonaparte's frenzy. Despite the large influx of Bonaparte's Gulls, only two **Black-headed Gulls** were recorded this season further arguing against the thought that large Bonaparte's Gull numbers result in more Black-headed Gulls and other uncommon two-cycle gull species. Conversely, we have seen greater numbers of Black-headed Gulls during recent winters where Bonaparte's Gull numbers were low. Two **Little Gulls** were discovered this winter, one of which was an adult found in the massive Bonaparte's Gull flock at Jacob Riis Park on 2 December. The second Little Gull record, also an adult, came from Montauk Point on 2 February and lingered about the area throughout the remainder of the season. The gull rarity highlights this winter were restricted to three **Mew Gulls**. The first two records came from Veterans Memorial Pier on 16 January and nearby Prospect Park on 20 January, a more traditional area in the Region where large flocks of Ring-billed Gulls gather and where Mew Gull has been detected consistently for the past decade. Finally, after a seventeen-year absence, a Mew Gull was discovered in Suffolk County. The bird was seen and photographed at Orient Point County Park on 10 February before it eventually flew north across the Long Island Sound towards Connecticut. The last Mew Gull record, outside of the New York Bay region, came from Shinnecock Inlet where a more reliable bird delighted observers for nearly a full month from January through February 2000.

There were several rarity highlights recorded throughout the Region this winter, but perhaps the most noteworthy bird was a **Graylag Goose** taken by a goose hunter in Mattituck on 30 January. While the specimen was not donated to the American Museum of Natural History's ornithology collection, feather and tissue samples were gathered and are slated for lab analysis. Existing images of the specimen pose an argument against domestic lineage, however physical identification attributes of Graylag Geese pose challenges and this topic has generated lively listserv discussions in recent years among neighboring states that have hosted interesting Graylag Geese. A full report will be submitted to the New York State Avian Records Committee following analysis of the feather samples. Graylag Goose has been a much anticipated "next" goose species for the New York State Checklist, therefore acceptance of this record would constitute a state first and would be one of the few accepted records for the North American continent. Additional western palearctic geese recorded this winter were **Pink-footed Goose** and **Barnacle Goose**, annual visitors now but for the first time in years, the Region nearly missed the latter species. Fortunately, two Barnacle Geese were discovered at Gerry Park in Roslyn on 21 February, remaining only for a few hours. Careful photo analysis proved these to

be the same two individuals that were briefly spotted on Mill Pond in Sayville just prior to the season in late November. The Pink-footed Goose record came from Deep Hollow Ranch, a continuing bird from the fall season which remained in the Montauk Point vicinity throughout the duration of the winter season.

Most of the noteworthy waterfowl highlights came during and after the deep freeze when Region 10's beaches, harbors, and bays became the recipients of large numbers of birds fleeing their icy haunts of the north. The Great South Bay held massive rafts of mixed *Aythya* species largely dominated by **Greater Scaup and Lesser Scaup**, as expected, with a high count of fifty thousand estimated from Heckscher State Park on 12 February. The amazing spectacle continued throughout much of the winter season and despite the enormous numbers of scaup only one **Tufted Duck** was found at Santapogue Creek in Babylon on 24 December. Santapogue Creek also hosted a **Ring-necked Duck X scaup sp. hybrid**, likely a returning individual from previous winters. Adding to the interesting *Aythya* hybrids found this season was an apparent **Redhead X Ring-necked Duck** that was found on Eastport Lake on 25 February. **Harlequin Ducks** were better represented this season than in recent, previous winters with a high count of sixteen recorded from Point Lookout on 20 January. In addition, a fascinating Harlequin Duck discovery took place at Shinnecock Inlet on 6 January where an immature male was photographed inside the inlet sporting a blue leg band with legible white characters "CI." The origins revealed that this individual was banded as a hatchling along Upper McDonald Creek at Glacier National Park in Montana on 29 August 2017. This resight is noteworthy in that it constitutes the first ever documented record of a "Pacific coast" Harlequin Duck migrating to the Atlantic coast. There is a previous record of a juvenile, first-fall Harlequin Duck, also with Montana origins, taken by a duck hunter on Lake Erie, Erie, Pennsylvania in the fall of 2015. Other than the Lake Erie record, there is no existing evidence that West Coast breeding populations make the long journey east across the continent to winter along the Atlantic coast.

Of the more puzzling avian mysteries of the season was the unprecedented arrival of **Purple Gallinules** immediately following the end of the deep freeze-out event. Region 10 received three records within a tight date range, 13-16 January, with an additional bird recovered much further north in Region 5 during the week of 22 January. Unfortunately, all three of the Region 10 Purple Gallinules perished in rehabilitation but the Region 5 bird was expected to make a full recovery. This begs the question as to why these extreme southern breeders would retreat to the cold north during the heart of winter. A possible explanation of this event was described by Farnsworth, et al. (2015), where they examined 77 occurrences of vagrant Purple Gallinules, using eBird data, during the months of November to February from 1957-2014, carefully comparing these records to climate data. They found that warmer, late summer temperatures in southern breeding areas correlated directly to these types of

vagrancy patterns. Their study also showed that drier conditions in eastern Mexico yielded similar relationships.

Additional rarity highlights include a well-documented **Hammond's Flycatcher** found in Central Park that carried over from the fall season through 12 December. Two **Ash-throated Flycatchers** provided little viewing opportunity for Regional observers with a single bird being seen and photographed in under 90 seconds at a private residence in Kings County on 4 December. The second record came from a traditional location for this species, Jones Beach West End, but was only enjoyed by a small handful of observers on 13 December. After a six-year hiatus in the Region, a **Mountain Bluebird** was discovered on 17 December during the Captree CBC at Robert Moses State Park. The bird was found east of the Golf Course frequenting the junipers and associating with American Robins and a lone Baltimore Oriole. A **Townsend's Solitaire** found at Tiffany Creek Preserve in Oyster Bay on 20 December was the Region's third solitaire documented in 2017.

Fourteen species of warblers were detected this season, a likely product of the late fall and early December warmth. The most notable species included a **Yellow-throated Warbler** that lingered at Midland Beach in Richmond County through 2 January. Three **Northern Waterthrush** were detected this season, one seen sporadically in Central Park through 18 December, presumably a continuing individual from the fall season. Another was uncovered during the Montauk Christmas Bird Count (CBC) on 16 December and for the second year in a row a Northern Waterthrush was found at Silver Lake Park in Queens on 30 December. The Montauk area hosted the first South Fork record of "**Audubon's**" **Yellow-rumped Warbler** that was initially discovered in Napeague on 2 December and was last seen during the Montauk CBC on 16 December. The most noteworthy warbler occurrence of the season came from the Suffolk County Farm and Education Center in Yaphank where a cooperative **Prothonotary Warbler** was enjoyed by many birders through 7 December. This constitutes the first winter season record of Prothonotary Warbler in New York State. Despite the excellent warbler diversity **Ovenbird** numbers from city parks were low with only a few sightings from Central Park, likely of the same individual.

Ammodramus sparrows were nicely represented this season, the first being a **Grasshopper Sparrow** that was discovered during the Montauk CBC on 16 December at Hither Hills Campground. In addition, all three regularly occurring marsh specialists were found at productive saltmarsh sites in Suffolk County. A **Saltmarsh Sparrow** was flushed up out of the marsh at Oak Beach on 17 December during the Captree CBC. A **Nelson's Sparrow** and three **Seaside Sparrows** were found on 5 January along Dune Road exhibiting remarkable survivability during the most severe and prolonged freezeout conditions the Region has experienced in recent memory.

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ABBREVIATIONS

APP – Alley Pd P, QUEE; **BPP** – Baisley Pd P, QUEE; **BLSP** – Belmont L SP, SUFF; **BBYC** – Bellport Bay Yacht Club, SUFF; **BP** – Breezy Pt, QUEE; **BC** -

Bridge Creek, QUEE; **BZ** – Bronx Zoo, BRON; **BBP** – Brooklyn Bridge P, KING; **COR** – Cemetery of the Resurrection, RICH; **CP** – Central P, NEWY; **CMB** – Crab Meadow Beach, SUFF; **CMP** – Cow Meadow P, NASS; **CroP** – Crocheron P, QUEE; **DREQ** – Dune Rd E Quogue, SUFF; **FBF** – Floyd Bennett Field, KING; **GB** – Gravesend Bay, KING; **GWC** – Green-Wood Cemetery, KING; **HSP** – Heckscher SP, SUFF; **HLSP** – Hempstead L SP, NASS; **HHCG** – Hither Hills Campground, SUFF; **HP** – Hook Pd, SUFF; **JRP** – Jacob Riis P, QUEE; **JFKMWS** – John F. Kennedy Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary, NASS; **JBSP** – Jones Beach SP, NASS; **JBWE** – Jones Beach West End, NASS; **KP** – Kissena P, QUEE; **LRP** – Little Reed Pd, SUFF; **OMNSA** – Marine Nature Study Area, Oceanside, NASS; **MPB** – Marine Pk Brooklyn, KING; **MB** – Midland Beach, RICH; **MASH** – Mashomack Preserve, SUFF; **MI** – Mattituck Inlet, SUFF; **MP** – Montauk Pt, SUFF; **Nap** – Napeague, SUFF; **OB** – Oak Beach, SUFF; **OPCP** – Orient Point County P, SUFF; **PBP** – Pelham Bay P, BRON; **PNS** – Pine Neck Sanctuary, SUFF; **PL** – Point Lookout, NASS; **PP** – Prospect P, KING; **RB** – Ransom Beach, SUFF; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP, SUFF; **SH** – Setauket Harbor, SUFF; **SLP** – Silver L P, NASS; **SFED** – Suffolk County Farm & Ed. Center, SUFF; **SMSP** – Sunken Meadow SP; **SC** – Santapogue Creek, SUFF; **SI** – Shinnecock Inlet, SUFF; **SPP** – Southards Pd P, SUFF; **SPCP** – Smith Pt County P, SUFF; **SSNC** – South Shore Nature Center, SUFF; **TCP** – Tiffany Creek Preserve, NASS; **UF** – Uplands Farm Sanctuary, SUFF; **VMP** – Veterans Memorial Pier, KING.
CBC Codes: **QWCC** – Quogue-Watermill.

WATERFOWL - VULTURES

Snow Goose: max 2000 JBWR 26 Feb (DG, SS).

Ross's Goose: BPP 1-15 Jan (mob); Wertheim NWR N to Yaphank 6-11 Jan (RO); 2 East Hampton 11-21 January (PD, mob); Riverhead 13 Jan (RV, SST); 2 Centerport 21 Jan (SM, KC, ph); BLSP & vicinity 26 Jan-12 Feb (DF); 2 Riverhead 4 Feb (DHR); Riverhead 25 Feb (RA).

GRAYLAG GOOSE: Mattituck 30 Jan 2018 (ER, ph).

Greater White-fronted Goose: Centerport P thru (mob); Babylon thru 2 February (mob); Riverhead thru 19 Dec (mob); imm Cutchogue 9-10 Dec (JSp); APP 7-21 Jan (JR); imm Riverhead 13-21 Jan (DHR); Eastport L 26 Jan (KF, SF); HP 17 February (JGI).

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE: Montauk thru; *intro*.

Brant: max 16,300 JBWR 16 Dec (DG).

Snow Goose x Brant (hybrid): Canarsie Pier 16 Dec – 26 Feb (PP, ph), apparent returning duo since 2012.

Barnacle Goose: Gerry P 21 Feb (Gary Strauss); *intro*.

Cackling Goose: Well represented with at least 51 inds thru Region; 1 BRON, 1 NEWY, 5 RICH, 1 KING, 7 NASS, 36 SUFF.

Tundra Swan: 2 Hook Pond 15 Dec (TWB, GB); 6 Hook Pond 11 Jan (KF, SF); 58 Breezy Point 24 Feb (PDO, LDe); 41 FBF 24 Feb (CF, STi); 100 Canarsie Pier 26 Feb (LEW); 25 JBWR 26 Feb (DG, SS, JGi, JL); 6 Bronx Zoo 26 Feb (TO).

Eurasian Wigeon: Eastport L thru 5 Jan (mob); Sayville thru 30 Jan (mob); Fort Solonga thru 18 Feb (mob); Southampton 17 December (SN, RV); MPB 14 Dec-13 Jan (JSal); Patchogue 21 Dec - 11 Jan (PB); CMB 7-25 Jan (TS); GB 27 Feb (SB).

Am. X Eurasian Wigeon: Bay Ridge Channel 13 Dec - 20 Feb (ABk, mob); PP 18 Feb (TG, SK).

Blue-winged Teal: JFKMWS 2 Dec (TH); JBWR 17 Dec (MG).

"Eurasian" Green-winged Teal: SC 7 Jan (PMo).

Redhead x Ring-necked Duck: Eastport L 24 Feb (JD); *intro*.

Ring-necked Duck x scaup sp.: SC 24-27 Dec (PMo, ph); *intro*.

Tufted Duck: SC 24-27 Dec (PMo, ph); *intro*.

Greater/Lesser Scaup: Large numbers reported throughout Region; max 50,000 HSP 12 Feb (SSM); *intro*.

King Eider: well reported at traditional locs; max 8 SI 10 Jan (MMcB).

Harlequin Duck: mostly from traditional locs; max 16 PL 20 Jan (GM, JR, PC, JMcM); one banded individual with Montana origins photographed at SI on 6 Jan (DHR, ph); *intro*.

Barrow's Goldeneye: Jamaica Bay 2-15 Dec (DG, mob); fem. RB 29-31 Dec (MMcB); OB 1-21 Jan (SSM, PJL).

Red-necked Grebe: well reported.

Eared Grebe: OB 2 Dec thru 25 Feb (PMo, mob); PL 30 Dec (PR); SI 10 Jan (MMcB); PBP 27 Jan (MBn, Ph).

Am. White Pelican: 2 Flanders, SUFF 17 Dec (QWCC); Brightwaters, SUFF 2 Jan (KB, ph).

Great Egret: very few reps after January freeze.

Snowy Egret: BC 16 Dec (CF); BBYC 18 Dec (MMcB); Freeport 20 Dec (MSh).

HAWKS - LARIDS

Osprey: TMRP thru 6 Dec (BBo); SPP thru 9 Dec (mob); MP 2 Dec (John Cataldo); HLSP 14 Dec (JGi).

Clapper Rail: 2 OMNSA thru 20 Jan (MF); DREQ 5-14 Jan (MMcB, mob).

Virginia Rail: LRP 16 Dec (TS, TH); Port Washington 16 Dec (SP); 2 SSNC 17 Dec (ABk); West Sayville 17 Dec (MMcB); PNS 17 Dec (VC); Ludlow's Creek 1 Jan - 4 Feb (MM).

Com. Gallinule: PP 17-24 Dec (WP).

PURPLE GALLINULE: juv. Manorville 13 Jan (RBA); Rockville Centre 14 Jan (RBA); ad. Southampton 16 Jan (RBA, ph); *intro*.

Sandhill Crane: FBF 19 Dec (LEw).

Am. Oystercatcher: last Jones Inlet 17 Dec (MK); arr Jones Inlet 24 Feb (mob).

Semipalmated Plover: 2 Setauket Harbor 26 Dec - 3 Jan (PS).

"Western" Willet: JBWE 2 Dec (JGI).

Red Knot: max 12 PL 10 Dec (DL); last 10 Jan SI (MMcB).

Long-billed Dowitcher: 5 SC 9 Dec thru 3 Jan (KF, SF, mob).

Parasitic Jaeger: RMSP 2 Dec (SSM, PJL); JBWE 3 Dec (PP, TH); *intro*.

Dovekie: MP 4 Feb (SSM, PJL, PMo).

Razorbill: max 216 MP 15 Jan (MMcB); also noteworthy 168 ind. SPCP 27 Dec (MMcB).

Black-legged Kittiwake: max 10 RMSP 5 Dec (KF, SF); *intro*.

Bonaparte's Gull: High counts; 4,000 JRP 2 Dec (DG); 3,000 2 Dec RMSP (SSM, PJL); *intro*.

Black-headed Gull: ad, SH 28 Dec (PS); 1 CY KING, multiple locs, 9 Dec-18 Jan (ABk, mob); *intro*.

Little Gull: ad. JRP 2 Dec (DG); ad. Montauk 2 Feb thru (SSM, PJL, mob); *intro*.

Glaucous Gull: 12+ reps from SUFF; 3 reps from QUEE.

Nelson's Gull (Herring x Glaucous Gull): several reps from SUFF; MI 11 Dec (BB, ph); SI 22 Dec (PRav, ph); BBYC 28 Dec (MMcB, ph); DREQ 1 Jan (KF, SF, ph); BBYC 14-19 Jan (MMcB, ph). Number of inds remains unclear.

Herring Gull x Lesser Black-backed Gull: BBYC 28-29 Dec (MMcB, ph); RB 11 Jan (MMcB, ph).

MEW GULL: VMP 16 Jan (SB, ph); PP 20 Jan (SS, ph); OPCP 10 February (AR, ph); *intro*.

Common Tern: JBWE 3 Dec (PP, TH).

Forster's Tern: SMSP 20 Jan (MB, ph).

PIGEONS – PARROTS

Barn Owl: Reps from tradition locs at Gateway NP plus a single rep from RICH on 16 Dec.

Snowy Owl: irruption year; many reps throughout Region.

Long-eared Owl: no reps other than a deceased bird found in Southold on 7 Jan (JSp).

Short-eared Owl: reps from RICH, KING, QUEE, NASS & SUFF.

N. Saw-whet Owl: 13 reps, SUFF only.

Red-headed Woodpecker: GWC thru 13 Dec (mob); CP 7-13 Dec (AP); MASH 10 Jan (MSc).

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER: CP thru 12 Dec (LL, mob); *intro*.

E. Phoebe: Owls Head P KING 1 Dec (JG); Silver Lake P, RICH 3 Dec (HF); BZ 13 Dec - 2 Jan (TO); JBSP 13 Dec (JGi); Mill P, Setauket 14 Dec (LN); SUNY SB 15 Dec (MFu); Manhasset 16 Dec (SP); Manhasset 17

Dec (SP); Stony Brook 27 Dec (TS, SMu, EMu).

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER: private residence KING 4 Dec (DG, ph); JBWE 13 Dec (BA); *intro*.

White-eyed Vireo: BP 1 Dec (ABk); FBF 2 Dec (DG); Charles Mem P 6 Dec (RS).

Common Raven: widespread. max 34 Brookhaven 26 Dec (MMcB); also 30 SFED 1 Dec (PjL, SSM).

House Wren: JBWR 2-20 Dec (Tait Johansson); CRSP 3 Dec (MF); NYBG 4 Dec (NF); COR 5 Dec (ACi); PP 16 Dec (JK).

Marsh Wren: 11 reps SUFF; 2 reps QUEE.

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD: RMPS 17-26 Dec (PjL, PWC, mob); *intro*.

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE: TCP 20 Dec - 18 Jan (BBo, ph); *intro*.

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: JBWE 3-7 Dec (TB, GB).

Ovenbird: CP thru 17 Dec; *intro*.

N. Waterthrush: CP thru 18 Dec; SLP 30 Dec (SSM); *intro*.

Prothonotary Warbler: SFEC thru 7 Dec (mob, ph); *intro*.

Orange-crowned Warbler: well reported throughout Region; 4 RICH, 5 BRON, 1 NEWY, 15 QUEE, 1 KING, 1 NASS, 14 SUFF.

Nashville Warbler: MB 1-2 Dec (CB); MPB 2-14 Dec (DG); 2 CP thru 3 Dec; CMB thru 4 Dec (TS).

Com. Yellowthroat: 2 Bryant P thru 15 Dec (mob); Herald Square P 1 Dec (JGl); HP 15 Dec (TWB, GB); LRP 16 Dec (TSt, TH).

N. Parula: CP thru 10 Dec; BP 1 Dec (ABk); CMP 2 Dec (TH); Kirk P, SUFF 2 Dec (LD, PA); JFKMWS 2 Dec (TH); Montauk 2 Dec (PA, LD).

Magnolia Warbler: CP thru 6 Dec (mob).

Palm Warbler: max 5 Nap 2 Dec (DHR).

Pine Warbler: Reps from all counties except NASS.

"AUDUBON'S" YELLOW-RUMPED

WARBLER: Nap 2-16 Dec (DHR, ph); *intro*.

Yellow-throated Warbler: MB thru 2 Jan (mob); *intro*.

Wilson's Warbler: CP thru 13 Dec (mob); CroP 7-12 Dec (ABk, mob); Carl Shurz P, NEWY 8 Dec (JG).

Yellow-breasted Chat: CroP 7-24 Dec (JR, mob); Westhampton 1-2 Jan (PMa).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Grasshopper Sparrow: HHCG 16 Dec (MSc, LSc); *intro*.

Nelson's Sparrow: DREQ 5 Jan (MMcB); *intro*.

Saltmarsh Sparrow: OB 17 Dec (BBo, TS); *intro*.

Seaside Sparrow: 3 DREQ 5 Jan (MMcB); *intro*.

Clay-colored Sparrow: SFED thru 20 Dec (mob).

Vesper Sparrow: SFED 15 Dec (KF, SF); Atlantic Beach 17 Dec (SA, CF).

WESTERN TANAGER: CroP thru 3 Jan (EM).

Rusty Blackbird: max 45 APP (BBe).

Baltimore Oriole: KING private loc thru 26 Dec (DG); BBP 2 Dec (HW); Nap 2 Dec (DHR); PP 2 Dec (DP, PP, ST); BBP 2 Dec (HW); MPB 3 Dec (HL); RMSP 17-25 Dec (PjL, PWC); SUFF private loc 7 Jan (JD); NASS private loc 28 Jan (JGag).

Purple Finch: HSP 6 Dec (KF, SF).

Pine Siskin: 5 RICH, 14 NEWY, 1 QUEE, 4 SUFF.



CORRIGENDA

Please make note of the following corrections to errors in *The Kingbird*. These have been or will be corrected in the digital archive, accessible at nybirds.org.

KB 62.1 March 2012

p. 21 Title should be Highlights of the Season – Fall 2011

p. 72 In Contributors, spelling should be corrected to Hope Batcheller

KB 63.4 December 2013

p. 355 Second paragraph, first line, 6.9° should read 69°

KB 64.2 June 2014

On the inside front cover, the Officers term should be 2013-2014

KB 64.3 September 2014

p. 287 Under Flycatchers-Waxwings, CASSIN'S X EASTERN KINGBIRD should read WESTERN X EASTERN KINGBIRD

KB 65.4 December 2015

On the inside back cover, Publications Chair should read: Seth Ausubel—118-17 Union Tpke, Apt. 16B, Forest Hills, NY 11375

p. 343 Within first complete paragraph, line 11, remove “Ardith Bondi’s NOHA with moss in talons.” and in line 12-13 remove “Common Ravens”

pp. 351 and 352 The footer should read *The Kingbird* 2015 December; 65 (4)

KB 66.4 December 2016

p. 255 and p. 257 First column of the Tables (Family) should be Laridae, not Sternidae

p. 269 Kirtland’s Warbler account, last paragraph, line 4, change 167 to 432

KB 67.2 June 2017

p. 95 Waterfowl table: The columns were inadvertently formatted incorrectly, and some text and numbers were truncated as a result.

Species column – after Goldeneye, should read Com.

Region 3 total should read 137,129

Region 5 total - insert comma for consistency (27,021)

Region 10 total should read 134,116

KB 67.3 September 2017

p. 81 Contents page, spelling should be corrected to In Memoriam, Irv Cantor

KB 68.1 March 2018

p. 1 Contents page, spelling should be corrected to Unusual diurnal roosting behavior...

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STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

Regional rarities appear in **BOLD**; county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in **UPPER CASE** letters; months are shortened to their first three letters. In species accounts: number of individuals omitted implies that one individual was reported; ! – details seen by Regional Editor; ad – adult; Alt – Alternate plumage; Am. – American; arr – arrival or first of season; BBS – Breeding Bird Survey; BOTS – bird of the season; CBC – Christmas Bird Count; CO – confirmed nesting; Com. – Common; E. – Eastern; FL – fledgling; FY – adult feeding young; I – Island; imm – immature; intro – see introduction to report; juv – juvenile; L – Lake; max – maximum; mob – multiple observers; N. – Northern; NYSDEC – New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; NWR – National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC – report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P – park; Pd – Pond; ph – photographed; Pt – Point; Res – Reservoir; Ri – River; SP – State Park; spm – specimen; subad – subadult; T – Town of; thru – throughout period; Twn – township; W. – Western; WMA – Wildlife Management Area; y – young.

REPORTING REGIONS

Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, except at:

Region 1-Region 2 in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties:
the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia;
NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19
from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County:
the boundary is Mud Creek to NY Route 64, NY Route 64
from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs, and Route 21
from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line.

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County:
the boundary is NY Route 31.

REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February

Deadline is 7 March

Spring Season: March, April, May

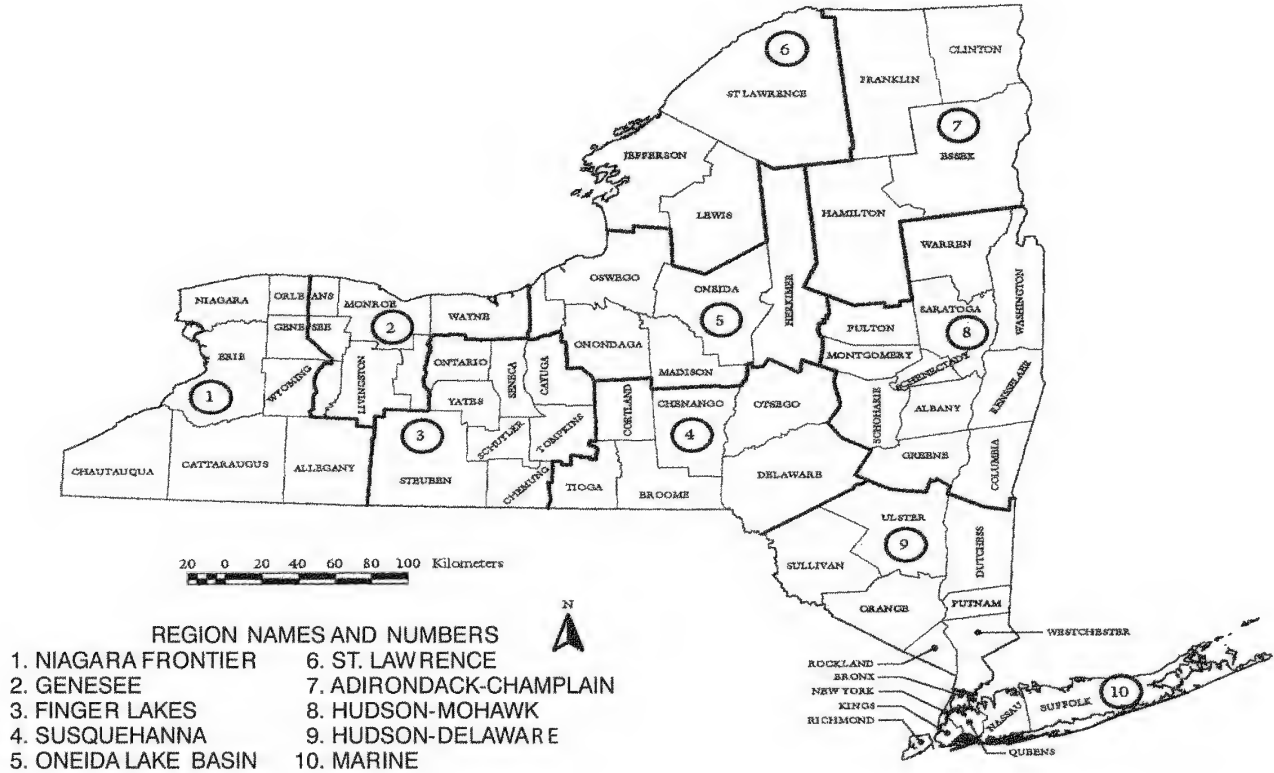
Deadline is 7 June

Summer Season: June, July, August

Deadline is 7 September

Fall Season: September, October, November

Deadline is 7 December



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Front Cover: Eastern Kingbird, Central Park, *New York*, 11 May 2018, © Peter Post.

Back Cover: Eastern Kingbird, Erie County Forest, *Erie*, 5 May 2018, © Sue Barth.

WEST NILE VIRUS INFECTION AND OTHER CAUSES OF BIRD MORTALITY IN NEW YORK CITY

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Abstract—At the time when West Nile (WN) virus was first detected in New York City and other parts of the United States, many jurisdictions, including the New York City Health Department, began collecting dead birds to analyze them for cause of death in order to determine the species of birds that were infected and/or dying due to WN virus infections. Across all species, blunt impact trauma was the leading cause of death between 2001 and 2007 in New York City (49%), and WN disease was implicated in 25% of deaths overall. In contrast, among the four species of birds that were most affected by WN disease (American Crow, Blue Jay, House Finch and House Sparrow), no less than 18% of dead specimens harbored WN virus. In New York City, House Sparrows show a high correlation to human WN cases and are a likely reservoir for WN virus, perhaps in part due to lower mortality rates compared to other species.

West Nile virus was first detected in the United States in New York City in 1999. Since that time, this mosquito-borne virus has spread quickly to every state in the continental US, infecting thousands and causing hundreds of deaths (Lindsey et al. 2010). Although mosquitoes are the vectors that transmit WN virus disease to humans, birds play an integral role as the primary host of the virus. In 1999, the NYC Health Department began surveillance of mosquitoes and dead birds as a potential early warning system for WN disease transmission to humans in the city. Dead birds that were reported to the health department were classified by species and cause of death was determined for each bird at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Wildlife Pathology Unit, Albany, and the New York State Public Health Laboratory, Wadsworth. Collected birds underwent pathology and laboratory testing to determine cause of death. Avian tissue samples were tested for WN virus by real-time reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR). Confirmatory tests were performed using RT-PCR, virus isolation in cell culture and immunofluorescence assays. Bird samples were confirmed positive when they tested positive on at least two tests (Kulasekera et al. 2001). Dead bird collection and testing concluded in New York City in 2007 due to the fact that it was not an effective surveillance system as it was time consuming and costly compared to mosquito surveillance and testing. Between 2001 and 2007, 119 human cases of WN virus occurred within the five boroughs of New York City.

RESULTS

The birds analyzed in this paper are American Crow, American Robin, Blue Jay, Common Grackle, House Finch, House Sparrow and Mourning Dove. The largest cause of death among all birds between the years of 2001 and 2007 was blunt impact trauma among 49% of dead birds tested (Fig. 1, p. 216). The second largest cause of death was WN virus infection (25%) followed by undetermined causes of death (11%), poisoning (5.3%), pneumonia (3.4%), infections other than WN and pneumonia (3.8%), and lastly, starvation (1.7%) (Fig. 1). All other causes of death remained relatively steady across the time period in which dead birds were being collected. After 2004, deaths due to WN virus dropped off under twenty percent; at the same time, blunt impact trauma rose to a high of 71% of dead birds as primary cause of death in 2005 (Fig. 1). Blunt impact trauma was the primary cause of death for many species including: American Robin (66%), Mourning Dove (65%), Common Grackle (63%), House Sparrow (50%), House Finch (47%) and Blue Jay (33%). (Fig. 2). American Crow (74%), Blue Jay (45%), House Finch (36%), and House Sparrow (22%) were the species whose deaths were most influenced by WN virus infection (Fig. 3).

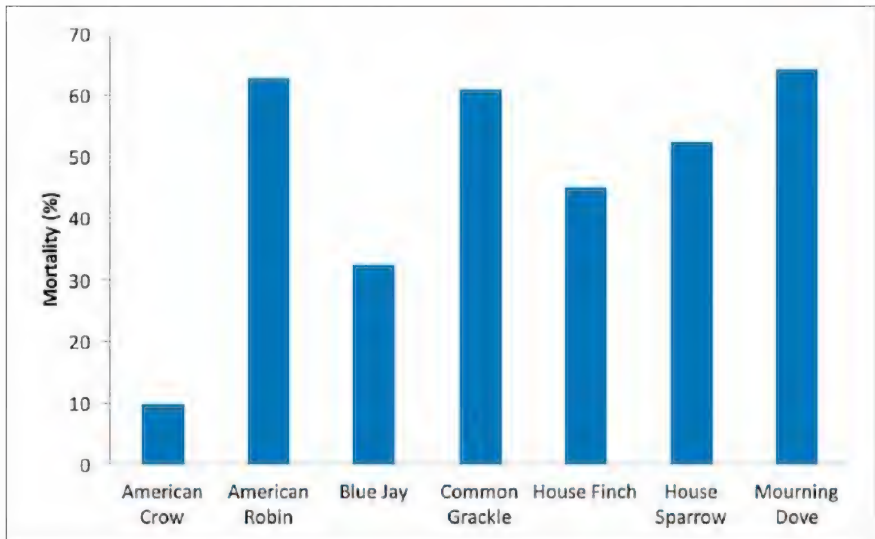


Figure 2. Percent cause of death for each species due to blunt impact trauma.

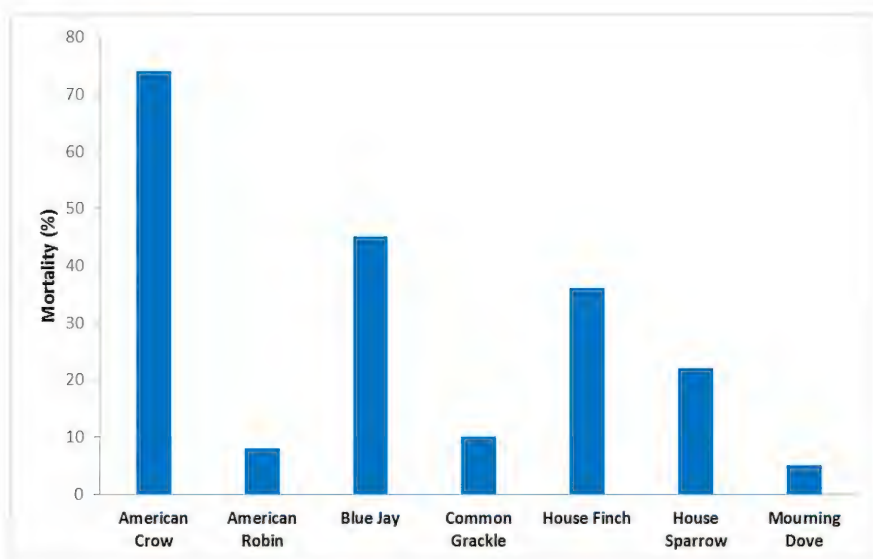


Figure 3. Percent cause of death for each species due to WN virus.

Common chemicals for poisoning found in dead birds include: organochlorine, diazinon, chlordane and lead. Poisoning only contributed to 5.3% of the deaths of the birds that were collected. Additionally, infections not including WN virus and pneumonia accounted for only 3.8% of deaths. Common reasons for infection in deceased birds include: aspergillosis (27%), trichomoniasis (23%), avian pox (9.9%), parasites (6.6%), ceolomitis (6.6%), salmonellosis (3.3%), pericarditis (1.1%), and septicemia (1.1%).

The average percentage of dead birds infected with WN virus, regardless of cause of death determination, was calculated for the following species: Blue Jay, American Crow, House Finch, and House Sparrow. American Crow (74%) and Blue Jay (42%) specimens had the highest infection rate, followed by House Finch (33%) and House Sparrow (18%) (Fig. 4). Additionally, the correlation between bird deaths attributed to WN and number of human cases for each year of data was analyzed. House Sparrows had the highest correlation with human cases ($R^2 = 0.73$), followed by Mourning Doves, American Robins, and House Finches ($R^2 = 0.38, 0.29$ and 0.28 , respectively; Table 1).

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Molaei et al. (2006) demonstrated that *Culex pipiens* and *Cx. restuans* most commonly fed on American Robins in Connecticut, and that this species was a competent reservoir there, when considering results of blood meal analysis, seroprevalence of WN virus, and species abundance.

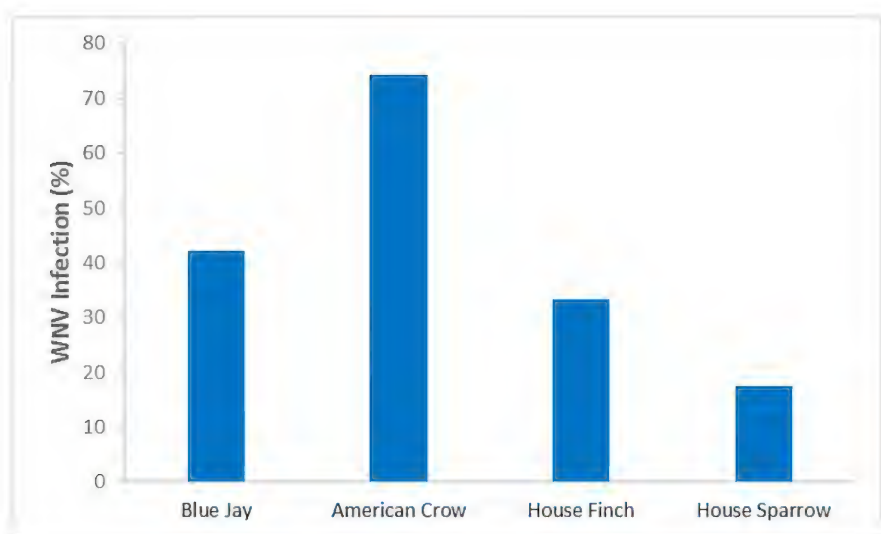


Figure 4. Average percentage of birds testing positive for WN virus through PCR (reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction) testing.

Species	R ^{2*}
House Sparrow	0.73
Mourning Dove	0.38
American Robin	0.29
House Finch	0.28
Common Grackle	0.13
Blue Jay	0.023
American Crow	0.016

Table 1. R² values for the relationship between the annual totals of bird deaths attributed to WN virus and human cases, 2001-2007.

While infections other than WN virus and poisons had a very small impact on overall bird mortality in our sample, we were also able to identify key chemicals and other diseases that played a role in bird deaths within New York City. More importantly, we determined that the main cause of death for all bird species collected was blunt impact trauma even while the percentage of death due to WN virus infection was relatively high in NYC. Death due to WN virus infection was most frequent among American Crow, Blue Jay, House Finch, and House Sparrow. Because American Crows and Blue Jays have such a high susceptibility and mortality rate due to WN virus infection, they are not an optimal reservoir for WN virus transmission in New York City. In contrast, House Sparrows experienced relatively lower levels of mortality due to WN

virus (22% vs. 74% in American Crows), even though other studies have identified House Sparrow as the most WN virus infected bird species in NYC (Komar et al. 2001b, Nasci et al. 2002). Together, these observations suggest that this species could be an important reservoir for WN virus. This inference is consistent with Komar et al.'s (2001a) conclusions from a serological study of WN virus in birds in New York. Finally, our observation that House Sparrow deaths due to WN virus showed a high correlation ($R^2 = 0.73$) with human cases from 2001-2007 provides further evidence that this species is an important reservoir for WN virus in New York City.

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THE STONE BRIDGE NIGHTHAWK WATCH 2017 SEASON

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In late August of 2017 the Four Harbors Audubon Society, a Long Island-based chapter of the National Audubon Society, established the “Stone Bridge Nighthawk Watch” in Frank Melville Park in Setauket, Suffolk County, New York. The overall purpose of the nighthawk watch, which will become an annual event, is to document the number of Common Nighthawks (*Chordeiles minor*) observed during their south-bound migration. It is hoped that by providing supplemental data to other information on the species, such as that collected by the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas, the annual nationwide Breeding Bird Survey, and other local nighthawk watches, a clearer and more complete picture regarding the status and trends of nighthawk populations can be obtained.

The Stone Bridge Nighthawk Watch was conducted in the early evening, running to dusk each night, and encompassed 40 days of observation, beginning 27 August 2017 and ending 6 October 2017. It was staffed primarily by Patrice Domeischel and the author, but nearly a dozen other individuals regularly participated. Data tallied at the Watch each day included the number of nighthawks seen, the number of minutes of observation, and general notes on the weather. Results for the season were as follows:

2,046 nighthawks seen
3,984 minutes of observation
0.511 birds per minute

The highest daily total was on 8 September 2017 when 573 nighthawks were observed, including a single “kettle” of birds containing 144 birds. The second highest total was 307 the day before. When broken down into 5-day blocks it is clear that the prime time for nighthawk movement at the Watch was during the first half of September:

August 27-September 1	64 birds
September 2-6	341 birds
September 7-11	954 birds
September 12-16	389 birds
September 17-21	118 birds
September 22-26	145 birds
September 27-October 1	17 birds
October 2-6	16 birds

Specifically, during the 15 days from 1-15 September, 1,672 nighthawks were observed, 81.7% of the observed total over just 37.5% of the 40-day survey. Thus, slightly more than four-fifths of the observed birds were seen during a block of days that represented slightly more than one-third of the watch days.

The idea of establishing the Common Nighthawk Watch was born out of an experience the autumn before when several local birders, including Carl Safina, the noted author and conservationist, noticed numerous nighthawks feeding on the prolific insect hatch that had occurred over the north pond in the park. Carl informed me of their presence and I hurriedly went down to observe the birds, thoroughly enjoying their distinctive flight behavior as they fed on the wing. I went back the next five nights to watch nighthawks, observing a total of 60 birds on 6 October 2016, which I made a mental note of. During one of these visits I was welcomed by a nighthawk which, after feeding over the pond moments before, decided to land and rest on the top of the stone bridge a mere 12 feet away; it stayed for several minutes until a couple walking by with a dog scared it off. This enlightening experience led to the realization that we could take advantage of the productivity of the site to establish a more formal seasonal census of the species.

Why the Setauket site, situated at the southern end of Conscience Bay, is a productive site to observe and count nighthawks is based on three factors. The first is the open setting around the site. The presence of the two ponds with the stone bridge in between ensures panoramic views of the area. These ponds are linear and with the southern edge of Conscience Bay directly to the north provide an unobstructed view for nearly half a mile in a north-south direction. Second, the ponds themselves attract nighthawks, drawn to the productive hatch of aquatic insects, such as midges, emerging from the ponds. Lastly, based on eBird reports and many years of personal observation, nighthawks, after crossing over Long Island Sound, appear to migrate westward on Long Island predominantly across the Island's northern portion, rather than traversing the Island and proceeding west along the south shore. The Stone Bridge site is strategically positioned to intercept these westward moving birds. The late Jim Clinton, Sr. used a similar strategy to monitor migrating Common Nighthawks at Wading River, and efforts are underway to find his data for comparison with the Stone Bridge surveys (S. Mitra, pers. comm.).

Common Nighthawk populations are in trouble, declining at a considerable rate, a trend made clear by comparing block occupancy in the last two New York State Breeding Bird Atlases (Sibley 1988, Medler 2008):

Status	1980-85	2000-2005
Possible	262	89
Probable	170	41
Confirmed	45	8
Total Blocks	477	138

In the 1985 Atlas, there were 477 blocks that contained possible, probable, or confirmed breeding Common Nighthawks; this declined to 138 blocks in 2005, a 71% decline. Perhaps more alarmingly, breeding was confirmed in only eight of the 138 blocks in the state.

Although it is not known with certainty what factors are contributing to the species' rapid decline, both as a breeder in New York State and nationwide, one factor has been strongly implicated: a decrease in the abundance of aerial insects due to widespread pesticide use. Loss of aerial insects from extensive pesticide use has been identified as a major contributing factor for the decline in a number of bird species, such as swallows, swifts, and flycatchers, which are dependent upon aerial insects and likely plays a factor in the decline of nighthawk populations which depend upon the same food source (Brigham et al. 2011). A likely additional contributing factor is a reduction in the amount and quality of suitable breeding habitat which includes, for urban nighthawk populations, a conversion of the gravel roofs they prefer to utilize for nesting to other unsuitable roofing substrates (Brigham et al. 2011).

We made another interesting observation during the 40 days of counting nighthawks. A number of mature oak trees grow on the hillside on the west side of the north pond, a fact well-known to the resident Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) population. Every day of the watch we observed Blue Jays flying west to east with acorns in their bills. They would often land in a tree on the east side of the north or south pond and appear to be scouting for competitors before flying off to cache the acorn. Moments later they could be seen, with empty bills, flying back to the oaks flanking the western hillside to secure more acorns. This experience illustrated the well documented finding that Blue Jays play an important role in forest regeneration. Indeed, their acorn caching habit, often involving placing acorns miles away from the source tree, is thought to be the main driver behind the northward re-establishment of the eastern deciduous forest following the most recent glacial advance, about 20,000 years before present.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON – SPRING 2018

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All Regions for which we received reports noted March colder than February, and most averaged cooler than normal. April was generally cooler than average, delaying migration and leafout, but then May featured a big reversal, with warmer than normal temperatures and a number of new record-highs.

One of the most spectacular bird occurrences I can recall in New York State occurred in Region 1 during mid-April, when the breakwaters and ice pack at Buffalo Harbor hosted an unprecedented concentration of 44 Snowy Owls! Interesting patterns observed this spring included further indications of two ongoing range expansions, albeit in opposite directions. Pileated Woodpeckers were confirmed nesting in the Staten Island Greenbelt, Richmond Co, an event described as the first such in New York City in almost two centuries. Chuck-will's-widows also continued to push their distributional limits, with a record on 19 May from the northern part of the Hudson River Valley Region, at West Mountain, Warren County, where the species has been heard for at least the last two years. Another occurrence that might (we hope!) be part of a trend involved the state's fourth **Kirtland's Warbler**, at Manhattan's Central Park, 11-13 May. This stunning bird was seen by many, many birders who had been unable to chase the inaccessible individual at Fort Drum and the one-day wonder at Hamlin Beach, both from June 2014.

Rarities were numerous and well distributed statewide this spring. An excellent candidate for **Dark-bellied Brant** (*Branta bernicla bernicla*) was closely studied and photographed at Coney Island Creek, Brooklyn, on 12 April. This Palearctic race has been recorded only a few times in North America, including New York State (23 Nov 1999). Its status in North America and its identification in relation to potential intergrades between Atlantic Brant (*hrota*) and Pacific Black Brant (*orientalis*)—as well as the enigmatic Gray-bellied Brant (*nigricans*)—are topics that remain works in progress, but which have important roots in the New York/New Jersey area and in this writer's own work (Buckley and Mitra 2002, *North American Birds* 56: 502-507; Buckley et al. 2004, *North American Birds* 58: 180-185).

A Swallow-tailed Kite at Derby Hill on 12 May was just the fourth record for Region 5; all of the prior ones were also from that perennially productive migration monitoring site. There were several notable inland occurrences of rare gulls this spring: a **Mew Gull** at Region 8's Collins Lake Park, Schenectady County on 15 April, a Little Gull at Hillcrest Pits, Broome County on 26 April (for the second year in a row), and several reports of Little Gull around Seneca

and Cayuga Lakes, possibly involving the same individual. A **Cave Swallow** 15-16 April at Salt Point, Tompkins County joined the very small set of spring records for northeastern North America. The possibility of a Caribbean origin should be considered here. Very rare in spring, a Connecticut Warbler at a Pulaski home on 19 May was very notable. Once fairly regular in Region 2, **Western Meadowlark** had not been recorded since 2008 until a male was found near Armitage Road, Seneca County on 14 April. Singing conspicuously, he remained there for many to see and hear through the end of the season.

Several of the foregoing are strong candidates for Bird of the Season. The BOTS award is based on multiple criteria, such as overall rarity, years elapsed since the last record, and the degree of opportunity for birders to enjoy the bird. Both the Kirtland’s Warbler and the Western Meadowlark scored well in these respects, and indeed, both were described to me in conversation as long anticipated and deeply valued state birds by many people. Even so, the BOTS award must go to the **Wood Sandpiper** at Region 10’s Timber Point Golf Course 16-17 April. Just the third record for the state and the first in spring, this bird stirred unusually intense emotions in a great many people—those involved in its discovery, those who were able to see it during its brief visit from late one evening to early the next morning, and, regrettably, in the many who narrowly missed it. It was a bird that will be remembered.

SPRING ARRIVAL DATES FOR 2018

Region	Species Reported ¹	Seasonality ² vs. 1987-15	Advance ³ (Days)	Record Early Spp.
1	92	-1.32	-1.52	2
2	93	-0.77	-1.69	3
3	92	-2.00	-2.71	5
4	90	-6.29	-1.55	10
5	92	-1.81	-0.45	3
6	91	-3.26	4.84	4
7	90	-1.97	7.93	1
8	91	-4.02	-0.62	3
9	-	-	-	-
10	72	-1.19	-4.23	5

¹Maximum number of species = 93.
²Average arrival in a Region compared to that Region’s 32-year average.
³Average arrival in a Region compared to the average of all Regions.

Given difficulties in estimating arrivals of some species in some Regions, estimates of Seasonality and Advance should be interpreted with caution.

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	Spring Arrival Dates				2018	Waterbirds							
Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	R9	Reg 10	Average	32-Yr. Ave	
American Bittern	6 Apr	4 Apr	9 Apr	6 Apr	10 Apr	13 Apr	29 Apr	13 Apr		30 Mar	9 Apr	13 Apr	
Green Heron	15 Apr	19 Apr	15 Apr	15 Apr	16 Apr	28 Apr	28 Apr	4 Apr		10 Apr	16 Apr	21 Apr	
Wood Duck	1 Feb	18 Feb	17 Feb	17 Feb	22 Feb	27 Feb	1 Mar	17 Feb			18 Feb	11 Mar	
Green-winged Teal	21 Feb	16 Feb	21 Feb	10 Feb	23 Feb	21 Feb	29 Mar	21 Feb			23 Feb	13 Mar	
Northern Pintail	1 Feb	15 Feb	17 Feb		18 Feb	21 Feb	1 Mar	20 Feb			17 Feb	6 Mar	
Blue-winged Teal	27 Mar	31 Mar	18 Mar	31 Mar	25 Mar	21 Mar	3 May	31 Mar		24 Mar	30 Mar	27 Mar	
Osprey	23 Mar	31 Mar	20 Mar	26 Mar	28 Mar	1 Apr	30 Mar	27 Mar		3 Mar	24 Mar	27 Mar	
Virginia Rail	2 Apr	15 Apr	12 Apr	1 Apr	14 Apr	25 Apr	29 Apr	13 Apr		10 Apr	13 Apr	16 Apr	
Sora	12 Apr	2 Apr	20 Apr	17 Apr	15 Apr	27 Apr	8 May	14 Apr		4 May	19 Apr	27 Apr	
Common Moorhen	18 Apr	20 Apr	6 Apr	12 Apr	22 Apr	13 Apr	12 May	23 Apr			19 Apr	25 Apr	
Black-bellied Plover	5 May	3 May	3 May	16 May	22 May	23 May		13 May			12 May	14 May	
Semipalmated Plover	5 May	3 May	6 May	4 May	12 Apr	11 May		11 May		8 Apr	30 Apr	9 May	
Killdeer	20 Feb	20 Feb	20 Feb	21 Feb	21 Feb	28 Feb	28 Mar	27 Feb			26 Feb	5 Mar	
Greater Yellowlegs	30 Mar	30 Mar	27 Mar	4 Apr	1 Apr	21 Apr	25 Apr	12 Apr		6 Mar	3 Apr	6 Apr	
Lesser Yellowlegs	8 Apr	10 Apr	13 Apr	21 Apr	12 Apr	26 Apr	3 May	22 Apr		29 Mar	15 Apr	16 Apr	
Solitary Sandpiper	20 Apr	14 Apr	12 Apr	14 Apr	25 Apr	27 Apr	5 May	22 Apr		6 Apr	19 Apr	25 Apr	
Spotted Sandpiper	13 Apr	16 Apr	13 Apr	14 Apr	15 Apr	24 Apr	22 Apr	3 Apr		17 Apr	15 Apr	22 Apr	
Sanderling	6 May	5 Jun	23 May		19 May						21 May	17 May	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	19 May	20 May	6 May	20 May	8 May	11 May	21 May	15 May		2 May	13 May	13 May	
Least Sandpiper	27 Apr	2 May	27 Apr	2 May	4 May	10 May	12 May	22 Apr		25 Apr	1 May	3 May	
Pectoral Sandpiper	8 Apr	14 Apr	21 Apr	10 Apr	20 Apr		8 May	21 Apr		30 Apr	20 Apr	20 Apr	
Wilson's Snipe	20 Mar	20 Mar	29 Mar	20 Mar	28 Mar	30 Mar	2 Apr	30 Mar			26 Mar	24 Mar	
American Woodcock	25 Feb	23 Feb	24 Feb	28 Feb	27 Feb	28 Feb	28 Mar	27 Feb			1 Mar	12 Mar	
Caspian Tern	4 Apr	2 Apr	30 Mar	15 Apr	31 Mar	11 Apr	13 Apr	12 Apr		14 Apr	7 Apr	15 Apr	
Common Tern	13 Apr	15 Apr	11 Apr	17 Apr	13 Apr	20 Apr	28-Apr	16 Apr		4 Apr	15 Apr	24 Apr	
Black Tern	27 Apr	20 Apr	28 Apr		27 Apr	5 May	12-May	15 May		24 May	4 May	7 May	
Marsh Wren	25 Apr	23 Apr	15 Apr	13 Apr	5 May	27 Apr	9 May	13 Apr		7 Apr	21 Apr	28 Apr	
	Dates in bold type are record early arrivals for the Region.												

	Spring Arrival Dates				2018	Landbirds							
Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	R9	Reg 10	Average	32-Yr. Ave	
Black-billed Cuckoo	9 May	3 May	5 May	11 May	6 May	14 May	30 May	6 May		29 Apr	9 May	12 May	
Common Nighthawk	12 May	6 May	9 May	16 May	5 May	14 May	18 May	7 May		27 Apr	9 May	12 May	
Chimney Swift	21 Apr	1 May	15 Apr	21 Apr	15 Apr	2 May	3 May	24 Apr		13 Apr	22 Apr	24 Apr	
Ruby-thr Hummingbird	2 May	2 May	2 May	1 May	3 May	4 May	4 May	28 Apr		21 Apr	30 Apr	2 May	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	31 Mar	2 Apr	17 Mar	27 Mar	15 Mar	3 Apr	27 Mar	31 Mar			26 Mar	2 Apr	
Olive-sided Flycatcher	15 May	9 May	10 May	20 May	18 May	12 May	25 May	18 May		5 May	14 May	18 May	
Eastern Wood-Pewee	7 May	9 May	3 May	9 May	12 May	13 May	9 May	28 Apr		30 Apr	6 May	9 May	
Alder Flycatcher	14 May	16 May	12 May	15 May	12 May	15 May	16 May	5 May		13 May	13 May	16 May	
Willow Flycatcher	10 May	8 May	12 May	8 May	10 May	13 May	19 May	10 May		9 May	11 May	14 May	
Least Flycatcher	2 May	24 Apr	26 Apr	28 Apr	1 May	3 May	4 May	27 Apr		30 Apr	29 Apr	1 May	
Eastern Phoebe	30 Mar	24 Mar	23 Mar	10 Mar	27 Mar	1 Apr	1 Apr	30 Mar		2 Mar	23 Mar	22 Mar	
Gr. Crested Flycatcher	30 Apr	27 Apr	28 Apr	27 Apr	3 May	1 May	3 May	2 May		11 Apr	28 Apr	30 Apr	
Eastern Kingbird	1 May	27 Apr	20 Apr	2 May	23 Apr	27 Apr	3 May	24 Apr		19 Apr	26 Apr	27 Apr	
Purple Martin	12 Apr	10 Apr	7 Apr	17 Apr	13 Apr	27 Apr	17 May	7 Apr		7 Apr	16 Apr	16 Apr	
Tree Swallow	18 Mar	28 Feb	21 Mar	20 Mar	27 Mar	26 Mar	31 Mar	27 Mar		3 Mar	19 Mar	20 Mar	
N. Rough-winged Swallow	5 Apr	13 Apr	11 Apr	10 Apr	14 Apr	27 Apr	23 Apr	8 Apr		30 Mar	12 Apr	13 Apr	
Bank Swallow	15 Apr	13 Apr	13 Apr	19 Apr	14 Apr	24 Apr	9 May	21 Apr		15 Apr	19 Apr	23 Apr	
Cliff Swallow	26 Apr	16 Apr	14 Apr	5 Apr	15 Apr	21 Apr	12 May	23 Apr		21 Apr	20 Apr	26 Apr	
Barn Swallow	6 Apr	31 Mar	3 Apr	1 Apr	12 Apr	21 Apr	19 Apr	12 Apr		31 Mar	8 Apr	9 Apr	
House Wren	18 Apr	21 Apr	15 Apr	18 Apr	24 Apr	27 Apr	13 Apr	17 Apr		8 Apr	17 Apr	21 Apr	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	8 Apr	29 Mar	11 Apr	26 Mar	14 Apr	23 Apr	21 Apr	1 Apr			8 Apr	7 Apr	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	20 Apr	24 Apr	13 Apr	18 Apr	22 Apr	4 May	2 May	24 Apr		2 Apr	21 Apr	20 Apr	
Eastern Bluebird		2 Apr				30 Mar	1 Mar				21 Mar	10 Mar	
Veery	4 May	4 May	2 May	3 May	2 May	6 May	2 May	1 May		19 Apr	1 May	1 May	
Swainson's Thrush	2 May	2 May	8 May	3 May	4 May	18 May	16 May	4 May		18 Apr	5 May	8 May	
Hermit Thrush	6 Apr	8 Apr	2 Apr	20 Mar	8 Apr	19 Apr	17 Apr	10 Apr			7 Apr	7 Apr	
Wood Thrush	1 May	28 Apr	28 Apr	28 Apr	2 May	2 May	3 May	28 Apr		12 Apr	28 Apr	29 Apr	
Gray Catbird	15 Apr	23 Apr	25 Apr	24 Apr	22 Apr	25 Apr	1 May	29 Apr			24 Apr	25 Apr	
Brown Thrasher	12 Apr	3 Apr	5 Apr	7 Apr	12 Apr	23 Apr	18 Apr	13 Apr		5 Mar	7 Apr	14 Apr	
Blue-headed Vireo	21 Apr	24 Apr	14 Apr	16 Apr	23 Apr	25 Apr	25 Apr	15 Apr		7 Apr	18 Apr	18 Apr	
Yellow-throated Vireo	2 May	4 May	2 May	3 May	3 May	3 May	23 May	2 May		21 Apr	3 May	3 May	
Warbling Vireo	29 Apr	24 Apr	1 May	28 Apr	30 Apr	4 May	21 Apr	2 May		17 Apr	27 Apr	29 Apr	
Red-eyed Vireo	3 May	2 May	3 May	3 May	5 May	3 May	3 May	5 May		16 Apr	1 May	3 May	
	Dates in bold type are record early arrivals for the Region.												

	Spring Arrival Dates				2018 Landbirds (continued)								
Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	R9	Reg 10	Average	32-Yr. Ave	
Tennessee Warbler	2 May	7 May	4 May	9 May	6 May	9 May	9 May	7 May		1 May	6 May	8 May	
Nashville Warbler	28 Apr	27 Apr	28 Apr	30 Apr	2 May	3 May	3 May	22 Apr		28 Apr	29 Apr	28 Apr	
Northern Parula	1 May	3 May	28 Apr	27 Apr	3 May	3 May	4 May	2 May		13 Apr	29 Apr	2 May	
Yellow Warbler	20 Apr	1 May	14 Apr	26 Apr	27 Apr	28 Apr	3 May	27 Apr		14 Apr	24 Apr	26 Apr	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	3 May	24 Apr	2 May	1 May	28 Apr	3 May	9 May	2 May		1 May	1 May	2 May	
Magnolia Warbler	2 May	5 May	18 Apr	2 May	3 May	7 May	6 May	3 May		27 Apr	1 May	4 May	
Cape May Warbler	1 May	2 May	2 May	4 May	3 May	5 May	9 May	9 May		1 May	4 May	6 May	
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	3 May	27 Apr	1 May	2 May	2 May	3 May	2 May	2 May		27 Apr	1 May	30 Apr	
Black-thr Green Warbler	29 May	29 Apr	28 Apr	22 Apr	1 May	2 May	1 May	28 Apr		23 Apr	1 May	25 Apr	
Blackburnian Warbler	1 May	1 May	2 May	2 May	3 May	4 May	3 May	29 Apr		28 Apr	1 May	2 May	
Pine Warbler	8 Apr	6 Apr	31 Mar	28 Mar	8 Apr	21 Apr	19 Apr	16 Mar			5 Apr	9 Apr	
Palm Warbler	18 Apr	19 Apr	14 Apr	7 Apr	14 Apr	27 Apr	19 Apr	2 Apr			15 Apr	17 Apr	
Bay-breasted Warbler	6 May	6 May	9 May	5 May	8 May	9 May	10 May	9 May		2 May	7 May	10 May	
Blackpoll Warbler	2 May	8 May	10 May	11 May	10 May	12 May	21 May	9 May		1 May	9 May	12 May	
Black-and-White Warbler	29 Apr	25 Apr	27 Apr	23 Apr	1 May	2 May	2 May	24 Apr		7 Apr	25 Apr	24 Apr	
American Redstart	3 May	3 May	2 May	2 May	3 May	3 May	3 May	2 May		27 Apr	2 May	2 May	
Ovenbird	1 May	27 Apr	27 Apr	29 Apr	3 May	3 May	2 May	28 Apr		12 Apr	28 Apr	29 Apr	
Northern Waterthrush	27 Apr	23 Apr	24 Apr	21 Apr	27 Apr	30 Apr	28 Apr	26 Apr		8 Apr	23 Apr	25 Apr	
Mourning Warbler	9 May	9 May	11 May	4 May	8 May	14 May	17 May	13 May		6 May	10 May	13 May	
Common Yellowthroat	25 Apr	16 Apr	22 Apr	2 May	3 May	4 May	3 May	1 May		14 Apr	26 Apr	29 Apr	
Wilson's Warbler	8 May	3 May	8 May	12 May	5 May	16-May	17 May	3 May		3 May	8 May	11 May	
Canada Warbler	8 May	10 May	1 May	11 May	10 May	10 May	12 May	8 May		2 May	8 May	10 May	
Scarlet Tanager	4 May	3 May	1 May	3 May	5 May	5 May	9 May	2 May		14 Apr	1 May	4 May	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	23 Apr	28 Apr	20 Apr	30 Apr	25 Apr	25 Apr	3 May	24 Apr		17 Apr	25 Apr	28 Apr	
Indigo Bunting	3 May	2 May	3 May	4 May	3 May	6 May	8 May	3 May		16 Apr	2 May	3 May	
Eastern Towhee	12 Mar	16 Mar	14 Mar	21 Mar	21 Mar	2 Apr	13 Apr	7 Apr			24 Mar	7 Apr	
Chipping Sparrow	31 Mar	8 Apr	2 Apr	2 Apr	4 Apr	10 Apr	6 Apr	2 Apr			4 Apr	4 Apr	
Vesper Sparrow	2 Apr	15 Apr	24 Apr	6 Apr	3 Apr	19 Apr	14 Apr	1 Apr		7 Apr	10 Apr	10 Apr	
Savannah Sparrow	2 Apr	4 Apr	31 Mar	19 Mar	31 Mar	23 Apr	4 Apr	12 Apr			4 Apr	6 Apr	
Lincoln's Sparrow	2 May	5 May	3 May	4 May	9 May	16 May	7 May	13 May		20 Apr	5 May	4 May	
White-crowned Sparrow	25 Apr	28 Apr	29 Apr	20 Apr	9 Mar	3 May	28 Apr	14 Apr			19 Apr	24 Apr	
Bobolink	1 May	1 May	28 Apr	2 May	27 Apr	3 May	3 May	28 Apr		22 Apr	29 Apr	2 May	
Baltimore Oriole	30 Apr	27 Apr	28 Apr	2 May	2 May	3-May	3 May	27 Apr			30 Apr	29 Apr	
Overall Average	18 Apr	18 Apr	17 Apr	18 Apr	19 Apr	24 Apr	28 Apr	19 Apr		15 Apr	20 Apr	22 Apr	
	Dates in bold type are record early arrivals for the Region.												

REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

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March was colder than February for the second year in a row and just the twelfth time in recorded history. The mean temperature at the Buffalo weather station was 31.4°F, 2.6° below normal, with 2.93" of precipitation, 0.02" above average. There was 22.2" of snowfall, 13.9" above average and mostly from a nor'easter storm on the first two days, but the Region mostly missed several nor'easters that followed. April was unseasonably cool with frequent precipitation. The first three weeks were especially cold and resulted in delayed arrivals for many migrants. The mean temperature was 39.2°, 6.7° below average. Precipitation was 3.99", 0.98" above average, with 6.9" of snowfall, 4.2" above normal. Spring finally broke loose in May, with the warmest May on record following the third coldest March-April period on record. The average temperature was 65.0°, 8.1° above normal. Rainfall was 2.72", 0.74" below normal.

Waterfowl and some of the earlier migrants arrived during a warmup in late February, but then the prolonged cold spell through March and well into April had migrants backed up. A cold stretch in mid-April resulted in many Common Loons and Horned Grebes seeking shelter in whatever open water they could find and in impressive numbers at some locations. The warm May brought the migrants back to their regular phenology.

Greater White-fronted Geese made a good showing including a group of eight on the rather late date of 20 April. A **Brant** was found by Sue Barth at Winter's Pond in North Collins on 31 March, which is unusual for both the location and date. Cackling Geese continue to be seen with regularity, with up to 14 in one group observed. A few **Eurasian Wigeons** were found, as usual, with two at one time at Tonawanda WMA. A **King Eider** was found off Fort Niagara SP in early March for the only report. There were several reports of **Surf Scoters** on inland waterbodies in mid-April. Up to four **Harlequin Ducks** continued off Niagara Falls SP, with some staying into May.

The most unusual shorebird report this spring was a **Red-necked Phalarope** photographed by Jesse Tharp on the Niagara River off Beaver Island SP on the remarkably early date of 17 April; this was 27 days ahead of the next earliest spring record. Another Red-necked Phalarope was seen off Niagara Falls SP at the more regular spring timing of late May. There were two reports of **Wilson's Phalarope** in May. A **Willet** in Somerset was a good find by Joel Strong. There were a few more reports of **Ruddy Turnstones** than usual and two **Sanderlings** were notable for their early arrival on 6 May at Dunkirk.

There were fewer reports and lower counts of gulls, including Little, Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, and Glaucous, and with no rare species for the

season. There were four reports of **Forster's Tern**, all in April, with two from unusual inland locations in Allegany and Cattaraugus Counties.

An **American White Pelican** was seen briefly on 29 April; marking eight of the last nine spring seasons it has been recorded. **Sandhill Cranes** continued their increased presence with reports from 12 locations. It was a good spring season for both bittern species, with **American Bittern** reported from 12 locations and **Least Bittern** reported from six. No rare herons or egrets were sighted this spring. **Black Vultures** continued in their regular location of Lewiston and with a few reports from elsewhere.

The spring raptor migration was delayed a little due to the cold weather in early spring and did not produce any rarities. **Snowy Owls** were well reported in March, and then an unprecedented concentration of up to **44(!)** occurred on the breakwalls and ice cover around Buffalo Harbor in mid-April. As you can imagine this brought out the birders and photographers in good numbers as well; also notable is the rather late timing of this occurrence. There was only one **Long-eared Owl** report. **Short-eared Owls** were found at seven locations, and there were no Northern Saw-whet Owl reports.

A **White-eyed Vireo** was a good find at Tiffet NP on 7 May. A new maximum count of **Fish Crows** occurred with 10 in Buffalo in early April; there were also sightings from South Buffalo and along Lake Ontario in Wilson. Willie D'Anna found a **Bohemian Waxwing** among Cedar Waxwings in Wilson on 22 March.

Pine Siskins were a regular occurrence in April, with some still passing into late May. A lone **Common Redpoll** at a feeder in Orchard Park in mid-April was the only other notable finch sighting.

Some of the regular sparrows arrived a little late with the cool weather. **Clay-colored Sparrows** were reported from five locations and **Grasshopper Sparrow** was reported from 11 locations, which is more than usual in spring. Ken Reichman had a **Harris's Sparrow** at his feeder in Whitesville, Allegany County on 3 May. Joel Strong added a handsome male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** to his Somerset backyard list on 10 April; this species has been nearly annual over the last few spring seasons.

Teenage birder Chris Bertola came up with two good finds close to his Orchard Park home, with a **Summer Tanager** at Birdsong Parklands on 6 May and a **Worm-eating Warbler** at Chestnut Ridge County Park on 10 May. There were three **Golden-winged Warbler** sightings plus one Brewster's and one **Lawrence's Warbler** report. **Prothonotary Warblers** were reported from Iroquois NWR and nowhere else.

The 83rd BOS April Count was held on 8 April on a day 20 degrees below the normal temperature for the day. The cool weather was a factor in the lowest species count (141) since 2003, and 115,470 birds were recorded. High counts were tallied for Trumpeter Swan (6), Ring-necked Duck (2,154), Bald Eagle (63), Great Horned Owl (34), Snowy Owl (2), and Common Raven (32). There were a number of record low counts, many likely attributable to the cold weather

and delayed migration, Ring-necked Pheasant (5), Killdeer (197), Wilson's Snipe (23), Red-shouldered Hawk (5), Belted Kingfisher (34), Field Sparrow (3), Swamp Sparrow (4), Eastern Meadowlark (40), Red-winged Blackbird (4,048), and Brown-headed Cowbird (576). Common Tern and Virginia Rail were not recorded.

The BOS May Count was held on 20 May. For the second year in a row 204 species were tallied and 65,708 birds (below average) were recorded. High counts over the last 50 years included White-winged Scoter (2641), Harlequin Duck (3), Osprey (50), Merlin (4), Peregrine Falcon (26), Sandhill Crane (5), Eastern Screech-Owl (12), Red-bellied Woodpecker (347), Pileated Woodpecker (48), Acadian Flycatcher (12), and American Redstart (420). Lowest counts in the last 50 years included Bank Swallow (83), Yellow-rumped Warbler (49), and Common Grackle (1,981). American Black Duck and Vesper Sparrow were not recorded.

CONTRIBUTORS

Sue Barth, Doug Beattie, Jim Berry, Chris Bertola, Kyle Brock, Matthew Brown, David Crowe, Willie D'Anna, Joe Fell, Joanne Goetz, Paul Hess, Bruce Hoover, Alec Humann, Jim Landau, Vincent Meyer, Joe Mitchell, Mike Morgante, Celeste Morien, Keith Neff, Betsy Potter, Ken Reichman (KRe), Dick & Dorothy Rosche, Kevin Rybczynski (KRy), Beverly Seyler, Alex Shipherd, Rick Stevens, Joel Strong, Jesse Tharp, Kirk Vanstrom, Gale VerHague, Peter Yoerg, Mike Zebehazy.

ABBREVIATIONS

AISP – Allegany SP, CATT; **AmSP** – Amherst SP, ERIE; **BeSP** – Beaver I SP, ERIE; **BOSAC** – Buffalo Ornithological Society April Count – 8 Apr; **BOSMC** – Buffalo Ornithological Society May Count – 20 May; **BufH** – Buffalo Harbor, ERIE; **BuSP** – Buckhorn I SP, ERIE; **BWWTP** – Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant, GENE; **ChauL** – Chautauqua L, CHAU; **DH** – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; **EvSP** – Evangola SP, ERIE; **FLC** – Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, ERIE; **FMCS** – Four Mile Creek SP, NIAG; **FNSP** – Fort Niagara SP, NIAG; **GHSP** – Golden Hill SP, NIAG; **Hamburg HW** – Hamburg Hawk Watch, ERIE; **INWR** – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; **JAS** – Jamestown Audubon Society, CHAU; **LBSP** – Lakeside Beach SP, ORLE; **LESP** – Lake Erie SP, CHAU; **NF** – Niagara Falls, NIAG; **NFSP** – Niagara Falls SP, NIAG; **NR** – Niagara R; **OOWMA** – Oak Orchard WMA, GENE/ORLE; **PG** – Pt Gratiot, CHAU; **RWNP** – Reinstein Woods NP, ERIE; **TBNP** – Times Beach NP, ERIE; **Tift NP** – Tift Nature Preserve, ERIE; **TRWMA** – Tillman Road WMA, ERIE; **TWMA** – Tonawanda WMA, GENE/NIAG; **WFWMA** – Watts Flats WMA, CHAU; **WoBSP** – Woodlawn Beach SP, ERIE; **WTSP** – Wilson-Tuscarora SP, NIAG.

WATERFOWL - VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: 3 Attica WYOM 1 Mar (RS); 4, 2 N Collins ERIE 4, 5 Mar (SB, JF, AH); 6, 4 INWR 11, 25 Mar (WD); 5 Hartland NIAG 17 Mar (JS); 6, 3 Somerset NIAG 18, 26 Mar (WD, BP, DS); max, last 8 Lewiston NIAG 20 Apr (BS); good showing.

Snow Goose: 80 Lewiston NIAG 1 Mar; max 150 Middleport NIAG; 120 BufH 20 Mar; last INWR 27 Apr.

Brant: arr N Collins ERIE 31 Mar, 8, 9 Apr (SB, JF), early; only report, less than annual in spring.

Cackling Goose: 2 N Collins ERIE 5 Mar; 10 Wilson NIAG 7 Mar; 4 Hartland NIAG 11 Mar; 10, last 5 Somerset NIAG 18 Mar, 21 Apr; max 14 Yates ORLE 23 Mar; 3 Lewiston NIAG 19 Apr.

Mute Swan: DH thru; Cassadaga CHAU 11 Apr; max 7 GHSP 14 May; Amherst ERIE 16 May; Barcelona CHAU 18 May; 6 Wilson NIAG 28 May; 24 BOSAC; 19 BOSMC.

Trumpeter Swan: 2, 1 INWR thru Apr, thru May; 2 Celeron ChauL 27 Mar (KV); 6 BOSAC; only reports.

Tundra Swan: 270 Attica WYOM, 400 Wilson NIAG, 400 N Collins ERIE 1 Mar; 99 Cuba L ALLE 4 Mar; max 535 TWMA 11 Mar (WD); 246 Long Point SP CHAU 19 Mar; last INWR 7 May.

Wood Duck: max 40 JAS 21 Mar.

Gadwall: max 76, 50 Alexander GENE 16, 19 Apr.

Eurasian Wigeon: 1-2 TWMA 3-13 Mar (CM, BH, WD); Batavia GENE 1 Apr (DB); TWMA BOSAC; only reports.

Am. Wigeon: 200 TWMA 4 Mar; max 250 OOWMA 11 Mar.

Am. Black Duck: 11 Hartland NIAG 18 Mar; 95 BOSAC; not reported on BOSMC; continue low.

Blue-winged Teal: arr 2 N Collins ERIE 27 Mar; 86 BOSAC; 5 BOSMC.

N. Shoveler: max 49 BWWT 6 Apr.

N. Pintail: 125 TWMA 4 Mar; max 160 Hartland NIAG 18 Mar.

Green-winged Teal: max 70 Alexander GENE 12 Apr.

Canvasback: max 500 BufH 2 Mar; last 3 NF & BuSP 4 May.

Redhead: max 100, 100 BufH 4 Mar, 18 Apr; 64 BWWT 8 Mar; 50 Findley L CHAU; 8 INWR 8 May.

Ring-necked Duck: 109 BWWT 1 Mar; max 650, 200 INWR 11, 26 Mar; 108 Clarence ERIE 30 Mar; 109 N Collins ERIE 21 Apr.

Greater Scaup: max 750, 350 BufH 1 Mar, 18 Apr; 200 BuSP 3 Mar; last 10 BufH 5 May.

Lesser Scaup: 35 INWR 26 Mar; 35 Findley L CHAU 12 Apr; max 37 BWWT 28 Apr.

King Eider: FNSP 9 Mar (MB), only report.

Harlequin Duck: 3, 4 NFSP 2 Apr, 12 May; regular this loc recent winter & spring seasons.

Surf Scoter: 4 FNSP 9 Mar; Machias CATT 11, 13 Apr (D&DR, SB); 3 Wilson NIAG 21 Apr; 2 Alma Pond ALLE 22 Apr (KR, DC); max 14 BuSP 2 May (AH); last FNSP 5 May.

White-winged Scoter: 32 BufH 1 Mar; TWMA 5 Mar; max 435 FNSP 17 Mar; 2 AISP 30 Apr (KB); last 5 Wilson NIAG 27 May.

Black Scoter: 2 FNSP 7 Mar; BufH 26 Mar; only reports.

Long-tailed Duck: max 175 BufH 1 Mar; 170 Wilson NIAG 22 Apr; 42 Cuba L ALLE 7 Apr (DC); last 2 Wilson NIAG 27 May.

Bufflehead: 34 INWR 5 Mar; max 110 Cuba L ALLE 20 Apr; last 2 Ellery ChauL 31 May.

Com. Goldeneye: max 100 BufH 1 Mar; last 2 Wilson NIAG 7 May.

Hooded Merganser: max 92 Lakewood ChauL 21 Mar.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 800 BufH, 450 Buffalo NR 17 Apr; 520 Wilson NIAG 4 May.

Ruddy Duck: 7 Buffalo ERIE 30 Mar; max 101 BWWT 28 Apr; 40 INWR 19 Apr, 11 May; 2 BufH 24 May.

Red-throated Loon: FNSP 10 Mar; max 9 Somerset NIAG 31 Mar; max 9 Wilson NIAG 21 Apr; Findley L CHAU 9 May; last 2 Wilson NIAG 27 May.

Com. Loon: arr Hamburg ERIE, Somerset NIAG, & FMCSP 31 Mar; max 83 BufH 18 Apr; 80 SUNY Buffalo ERIE; 74 Cassadaga CHAU 20 Apr; max total from mid Apr 'grounding'.

Pied-billed Grebe: 22 Findley L CHAU 12 Apr, good number for loc.

Horned Grebe: max 108 N Collins ERIE 1 Apr (SB); 40 Cuba L ALLE 16 Apr; 40 Tiff NP 18 Apr; many around on small ponds in mid Apr.

Red-necked Grebe: 5, 20 Somerset NIAG 7, 31 Mar; max 53 Wilson NIAG 28 Mar; 52 FMCSP 31 Mar; 25 GHSP 11 Apr; BuSP 12, 20 Apr; last N Harmony ChauL 4 May.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 750 DH 16 Apr; 559 GHSP 1 May; 700 NF 25 May.

Am. White Pelican: BuH 29 Apr (PY); has become annual in spring.

Am. Bittern: arr Tift NP 6 Apr; 11 other loc; much more than usual.

Least Bittern: arr INWR 11 May; max 2, 4 Tift NP 17, 21 May; TBNP 22, 29 May; 2 TWMA 25 May; Wilson NIAG 28 May.

Great Egret: arr 2 Tonawanda NR 22 Mar; max 41 Tonawanda NR 5 May.

Green Heron: arr Cuba ALLE 15 Apr.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr Grand I ERIE 18 Mar; max 65 NFSP 14 May.

Black Vulture: 2 Lewiston NIAG 30 Mar, 3, 18 Apr, 13 May; regular loc where resident all year; 2 FMCSF 31 Mar; N Tonawanda NIAG 5 Apr; 4 BOSAC; Basom GENE 21 Apr; Bond L NIAG 3 May.

Turkey Vulture: arr 3 Buffalo ERIE 1 Mar; max 2117 Hamburg HW 31 Mar.

HAWKS - LARIDS

Osprey: arr 2 Randolph CHAU 23 Mar; max 20 Hamburg HW 13 Apr.

Bald Eagle: max 13, 14 Hamburg HW 31 Mar, 23 Apr; widespread.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 90 Hamburg HW 13 Apr.

Red-shouldered Hawk: arr 2 Hamburg HW 18 Mar.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr 3 Houghton ALLE, 1 Orchard Park ERIE, & 1 Hamburg HW 13 Apr; max 839 Hamburg HW 23 Apr.

Rough-legged Hawk: max 3 Yates ORLE 31 Mar; last Lewiston NIAG 4 May.

Golden Eagle: Olean CATT 4 Mar (KN); 1 Hamburg HW 21, 30 Apr, 5 May (JL); only reports.

Virginia Rail: arr TRWMA 2 Apr; max 5, 8 Tift NP 23, 27 Apr; Hanging Bog WMA ALLE 2, 29 May; N Harmony CHAU 19 May; 2 Ellicottville CATT 21 May.

Sora: arr Pomfret CHAU 12 Apr; max JAS 5 May; N Harmony CHAU 5, 19 May; FMCSF 5 May; WFWMA 23 May.

Com. Gallinule: arr Pomfret CHAU 18 Apr.

Am. Coot: max 40 INWR 11 Mar.

Sandhill Crane: rep 12 loc; max 6 WFWMA 22 Apr (JB); 4 OOWMA 7 May.

Black-bellied Plover: arr Wilson NIAG 5 May; max 11 Somerset NIAG 22 May.

Semipalmated Plover: arr Wilson NIAG 5 May; max 46 Somerset NIAG 22 May (JS).

Spotted Sandpiper: arr DH 13 Apr.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr 2 Arkwright CHAU 20 Apr.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr Sheridan CHAU & Brant ERIE 30 Mar; max 15 Batavia GENE 24 Apr; last LBSP 28 May (CM).

Willet: arr Somerset NIAG 11, 17 May (JS), only report.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 6 BOSAC; max 11 INWR 30 Apr.

Upland Sandpiper: arr TRWMA 12 May, regular loc, only report.

Ruddy Turnstone: arr 1 DH 7, 18 May (AS, JG); Wilson NIAG 21 May; Somerset NIAG 22 May; 2 BuH 24 May; Olcott NIAG 26 May.

Sanderling: arr 2 DH 6, 7 May (GV), early; 3 BuH 25 May; only reports.

Dunlin: arr 3 Sheridan CHAU 14 Apr; max 44 Somerset NIAG 22 May.

Least Sandpiper: arr INWR 27 Apr; max 32 INWR 7 May.

White-rumped Sandpiper: arr Somerset NIAG 22 May, only report.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 2 Hanover CHAU 8 Apr.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr 2 Wilson NIAG 19 May; max 42 TWMA 25 May.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 2 Somerset NIAG 11 May; 10 Somerset NIAG 22 May; 9 Concord ERIE 15 May; 8 TWMA 19 May; BuH 22 May.

Wilson's Snipe: arr 2 Jamestown CHAU 20 Mar; max 22 Cuba ALLE 16 Apr.

Am. Woodcock: max 19 INWR 7 May (CM, PH).

Wilson's Phalarope: arr Wilson NIAG 5, 7 May (WD); Somerset NIAG 15 May (JS).

Red-necked Phalarope: BeSP 17 Apr (JT, ph!), record early; NFSP 25 May (JM).

Bonaparte's Gull: arr 10 Hamburg ERIE 8 Mar; max 850 Buffalo NR 17 Apr; 800 Lewiston NR 18 Apr.

Little Gull: arr Lewiston NR 25 Mar; max 5 Lewiston NR 18 Apr; last FNPS 5 May; fewer reports.

Iceland Gull: few reported; max only 2; much lower than past years.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 4 NFSP 17 Mar; Tift NP 2 May, unusual loc, much lower than past years.

Glaucous Gull: max 3 DH 12 Mar; last BuH 4 May; few reports.

Caspian Tern: arr DH 4 Apr; 177 PB 6 May; max 200 BuH 18 May.

Black Tern: arr INWR 27 Apr; max 20 INWR 25 May; NF 10 May.

Com. Tern: arr DH & Buffalo NR 13 Apr; max 600 BufH 23 May.
Forster's Tern: arr Dayton CATT 4 Apr (VM); DH 16 Apr; Cuba L ALLE 16 Apr; Lewiston NR 17 Apr.

PIGEONS – PARROTS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr Ellington CHAU 11 May.

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr Tift NP 9 May.

Snowy Owl: 3 Yates ORLE 5 Mar; 3 Cambria NIAG 19, 24 Mar; well reported elsewhere in Mar; 2 BOSAC; **max 22, 44** BufH 17, 20 Apr (PY, mob), exceptional concentration on breakwalls and ice; Dunkirk CHAU 3 May; Somerset NIAG 4 May; last BufH 9 May.

Long-eared Owl: GHSP 11 Apr; only report.

Short-eared Owl: Yates ORLE 5 Mar; Gowanda ERIE 8 Mar; Dunkirk Airport CHAU 11 Mar; max 3 Shelby ORLE 20 Mar; Ischua CATT 22, 23 Mar; 5 BOSAC; BufH 21 Apr; last INWR 27 Apr.

N. Saw-whet Owl: no reports.

Com. Nighthawk: arr 2 N Harmony CHAU 12 May; max 9 Jamestown CHAU 26 May.

Chimney Swift: arr FLC 21 Apr.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Ripley CHAU 2 May.

Red-headed Woodpecker: RWNP thru Apr; arr 2 EvSP, FNSP 27 Apr.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr FLC 31 Mar.

Merlin: too many sightings to report.

Peregrine Falcon: reports Mar-May mostly near known breeding sites; 13 BOSAC; 26 BOSMC.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr N Harmony CHAU & AmSP 15 May; Chestnut Ridge P ERIE 16 May; Ellery CHAU 19 May.

E. Wood-Pewee: arr Jamestown CHAU 7 May.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr five loc 22 May.

Acadian Flycatcher: arr 2 INWR, N Harmony CHAU, & Chestnut Ridge P ERIE 14 May.

Alder Flycatcher: arr Cherry Creek CHAU 14 May.

Willow Flycatcher: arr BuSP 10 May.

Least Flycatcher: arr AmSP & Tift NP 2 May.

E. Phoebe: arr Orchard Park ERIE 30 Mar.

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr 2 RWNP 30 Apr.

E. Kingbird: arr PG 1 May.

N. Shrike: last Java WYOM 11 Apr.

White-eyed Vireo: Tift NP 7 May (KR), fewer spring reports in recent years.

Yellow-throated Vireo: arr Tift NP 2 May.

Blue-headed Vireo: arr 3 Willing ALLE 21 Apr.

Warbling Vireo: arr 2 Alexander GENE, Batavia GENE 29 Apr.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr four loc 14 May.

Red-eyed Vireo: arr Orchard Park ERIE 3 May.

Fish Crow: 10, 5 Buffalo ERIE 7, 10 Apr (PY), record count; S Park L ERIE 17 Apr; Wilson NIAG 3 May (WD); still rare but increasing.

Com. Raven: continued increase rep n ERIE & NIAG.

Horned Lark: max 150 Java WYOM 10 Mar.

Purple Martin: arr 3 Tift NP 12 Apr.

Tree Swallow: arr Gerry CHAU 18 Mar.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr FLC 5 Apr.

Bank Swallow: arr 3 Tift NP 15 Apr.

Cliff Swallow: arr 3 BufH 26 Apr.

Barn Swallow: arr Tift NP 6 Apr.

House Wren: arr FLC 18 Apr.

Winter Wren: arr AISP 31 Mar.

Marsh Wren: arr Tift NP 25 Apr.

Carolina Wren: only 18 BOSAC & 21 BOSMC.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr 3 JAS 20 Apr.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr Tift NP 15 Mar.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr BOSAC; last Tift NP 23 May.

E. Bluebird: max 45 Wilson NIAG (MM, WD) 27 May, flyover flocks, late date.

Veery: arr 2 TBNP, Tift NP, & N Harmony CHAU 4 May.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr FLC 14 May.

Swainson's Thrush: arr four loc 2 May.

Hermit Thrush: arr Tift NP 6 Apr.

Wood Thrush: arr 2 Hanging Bog WMA ALLE & Buffalo ERIE 1 May.

Gray Catbird: Tift NP 19 Mar, 15 Apr; difficult to tell if same from winter or spring arrival.

Brown Thrasher: arr BuSP 12 Apr.

Am. Pipit: last 2 Wilson NIAG 23 Mar.

Bohemian Waxwing: Wilson NIAG 22 Mar (WD), rare in spring.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: 1, 1, last 1 Shelby ORLE 12, 16 Mar, 4 May; Arcade WYOM 22 Mar; max 5 Yates ORLE 31 Mar; Wilson NIAG 22 Apr.

Snow Bunting: max 25 Shelby ORLE 12 Mar.

Ovenbird: arr Busti CHAU 1 May.
Worm-eating Warbler: Chestnut Ridge P ERIE 10 May (CB), rare.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr N Harmony CHAU 24 Apr.
N. Waterthrush: arr TBNP, Chautauqua CHAU 27 Apr.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr WTSP & Tift NP 6 May; BeSP 15 May; only reports.
Blue-winged Warbler: arr 2 LESP & PG 2 May.
“Brewster’s” Warbler: FLC 4 May, only report.
“Lawrence’s” Warbler: OOWMA 10 May (CM), previous location; rare.
Black-and-white Warbler: arr Amherst ERIE 29 Apr.
Prothonotary Warbler: arr 1, max 3 INWR 5, 25 May.
Tennessee Warbler: arr EvSP 2 May.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr Alexnader GENE 29 Apr.
Nashville Warbler: arr FLC 28 Apr.
Mourning Warbler: arr 3 N Harmony CHAU & Hanging Bog WMA ALLE 9 May.
Com. Yellowthroat: arr RWNP 25 Apr.
Hooded Warbler: arr Arkwright CHAU 1 May.
Am. Redstart: arr PG 3 May.
Cape May Warbler: arr AmSP 1 May.
Cerulean Warbler: arr 3 INWR 4 May; 4 Newstead ERIE 23 May.
N. Parula: arr Harmony CHAU 1 May.
Magnolia Warbler: arr AmSP & Caneadea ALLE 2 May.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr 2 Grand Island ERIE 6 May.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr FLC 1 May.
Yellow Warbler: arr Cuba ALLE 20 Apr.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr Caneadea ALLE 3 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr Buffalo ERIE 2 May.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr JAS & Hanging Bog WMA ALLE 3 May.
“Western” Palm Warbler: arr N Harmony CHAU 18 Apr.
Pine Warbler: arr 3 BOSAC.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: 8, 3 BuSP 12, 28 Mar; only reports before Apr.
Prairie Warbler: arr TBNP 5 May.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr RWNP 29 Apr.
Canada Warbler: arr 3 loc 8 May.
Wilson’s Warbler: arr FLC 8 May.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: Rushford ALLE 12-18 Mar; Lockport NIAG 14 Mar; uncertain if arrivals or wintering.
Am. Tree Sparrow: max 101 INWR 3 Mar; last WoBSP 5 May.
Chipping Sparrow: Portland CHAU 5 Mar, overwintered; arr Clarence ERIE 31 Mar.
Clay-colored Sparrow: arr Wilson NIAG & Olcott NIAG 3 May; Newfane NIAG 4, 16 May; Forestville CHAU 5 May; 2 Carlton ORLE 8, 23 May; 3 BOSMC; max 4 Olcott NIAG 28 May.
Field Sparrow: arr Bond L CP 31 Mar.
Vesper Sparrow: arr Sheridan CHAU 2 Apr; max 4 BuFH 16 Apr; more rpts than usual, especially of migr in Apr.
Savannah Sparrow: arr Sheridan CHAU 2 Apr.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr BuSP 1 May; reported from 11 other loc.
Fox Sparrow: 4 rep Mar; max 14 FLC 17 Apr; 11 Hanging Bog WMA ALLE 21 Apr; last Tift NP2 May.
Lincoln’s Sparrow: arr three loc 2 May; last Wilson NIAG 24 May.
Swamp Sparrow: arr N Harmony CHAU 19 Mar.
White-throated Sparrow: max 93 Tift NP 28 Apr.
HARRIS’S SPARROW: Whitesville ALLE 3 May (KRe ph!), rare.
White-crowned Sparrow: 4 loc Mar; arr late Apr; last 2 FNSP 24 May.
SUMMER TANAGER: Orchard Park ERIE 6 May (CB); nearly annual in spring now.
Scarlet Tanager: arr RWNP 4 May.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr Ripley CHAU 23 Apr.
Indigo Bunting: arr three loc 3 May.
Bobolink: arr Somerset NIAG 1 May.
E. Meadowlark: arr 4 Dunkirk Airport CHAU 1 Mar.
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: Somerset NIAG 10 Apr (JS); rare but regular in spring in recent years.
Rusty Blackbird: max 140 BuSP 30 Apr.
Orchard Oriole: arr TBNP 1 May.
Baltimore Oriole: arr 2 Jamestown CHAU 30 Apr.
Purple Finch: max 14 Westfield CHAU 4 Mar.
Com. Redpoll: Orchard Park ERIE 16-20 Apr (MZ), only report.
Pine Siskin: 46 Portville ALLE 2 Mar; 49, 57 Bolivar ALLE 6 Mar, 6 Apr; max 187 Orangeville WYOM 19 Apr; reported in lower numbers thru.

REGION 2—GENESEE

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Spring 2018 brought a season of sharp contrasts and at times sighs of relief. March was another cold month, with temperatures averaging 32.2°F, 2.1° below normal. It was the tenth time and second in a row for the March average to be below February's. A persistent storm track to our south and east left us cold until the 26th, after which we finally made the 40s for a few days but with light rain each day. Precipitation totaled 3.02", 0.52" above normal. Light snow fell on 15 days, plus a few heavy snow days added up to 29.4", 13.1" above normal. And, we were only on the fringes of four major nor'easters passing south of us and up the East Coast.

April continued the cold, with the first 10 days the coldest on record for that period and through the fourth week still the second coldest. But a few warm days at the end dropped us to the tenth coldest April. Temperatures averaged 40.8°, 5.5° below normal. Precipitation totaled 3.50", 0.77" above normal, but with 1.34" of that falling on the 16th. Nearly all the snowfall was in the first half of the month and totaled only 5.2". Again, we were lucky, as a windstorm on 3-4 April produced most of its damage to our west and a potential severe ice storm on 14-15 April caused little damage locally. Lake Ontario levels were high and concerning but well below last year's major flood levels. At month's end, leaf out and spring migrants were both well behind normal.

May jumped right to warm; 80° on the 1st! All but three days, 10-12 May, averaged above normal, and May ended the warmest on record averaging 64.4°, 7.6° above normal. Still there were only two records set, a tie of the record high on the 2nd and a new record high low on the 31st. Precipitation totaled 1.70", 1.17" below normal and mostly in the 2nd half of the month and at night and with 0.52" of the total on the 22nd. So a great month to be outdoors birding!

March was really not conducive to migration or to birders venturing out. Yet eBird lines of "records" were typical and species found were near the 10-year average. Moving into April, the major problem was a heavy band of storms across the country to our south and west blocking a major source of our migrants. April's cold left species counts well behind those of the last few years. The quick change to warmth in May caught us up to regular arrival dates and by month's end pushed species totals above average for the month and year to date. The eBird records downloaded for the months were about: 24,200, 47,930, and 89,512, with April and May totals boosted by special birding events.

Turning now to specific families and species, we start with the waterfowl and find nearly all expected species found each month, though a common complaint was poor numbers. Snow Goose numbers remained high in the Region and even much higher in neighboring Region 3 through March. Good

numbers of the scarcer Greater White-fronted Goose, Ross's Goose, and Cackling Goose were also found, with individuals lingering into April. An early Brant was found on 15 April in the Ontario Beach area by Brian Morse. Eurasian Wigeon continued from early arrivals in February, though March records were only from the NMWMA in this Region. Single males were found in that area and in Hamlin in April. Among the puddle ducks, a peak count of 4000 Northern Pintail in the Carnecross Road area of the NMWMA in March and a surprise 28 Northern Shovelers on the Shore Acres Ponds in Hamlin on 7 May were the only standouts. For the diving ducks, 8000 Redheads on Conesus Lake in March, 894 Greater Scaup, and 1340 Long-tailed Ducks in April, 1000 Long-tailed Ducks and 760 Red-breasted Mergansers in May, and King Eiders on 17 and 18 March and 1 April, and a Harlequin Duck on 11 May were highlights. A good variety of waterfowl lingered into May, but Tundra Swan, Canvasback, and Black Scoter were missed in that month.

Red-throated Loon numbers remained low, with the maximum only 27 on 1 April. Common Loon and Horned Grebe were a bit better, with peaks of 577 on 28 April and 458 on 1 April, respectively. Given the generally low loon numbers, an event at Webster Park on 28 April was interesting. I arrived at the lakeshore parking area for a short look at the lake and found a wall of fog parked a quarter mile or so offshore. Inside that line, there were Common Loons on the water everywhere as far as I could see east and west and out to the fog. Most were alternate plumage adults, and they were ignoring the many fishing boats passing back and forth among them. I counted 577 in this area of visibility. Later I moved west to the porch of the Kanatota Lodge and counted what I could see out front, trying to start west of the limit from the lakefront lot and as far west as I could see. The numbers dropped off quickly, though visibility was somewhat better offshore, and the total was only 114. Red-necked Grebe peaked at a low 41 on 2 April. 1000 Double-crested Cormorants were back into Irondequoit Bay by 13 April. American Bitterns were on the early side on 4 and 6 April, on the latter date, a bird walking through the backyard of Martha Zettel and Bill O'Neill in the Town of Rush. Even earlier were Great Egrets in two locations on 27 March and a Green Heron on 30 March. A Cattle Egret was found in the Sodus area by Jim Wood on 5 May and seen by at least nine others on that day. The species is now rare in spring. Black Vulture was reported from the hawkwatch on 9 April and then two each from HANA and from West Walworth on 8 May.

This year the official Braddock Bay hawk counter was Greg Lawrence, with regular help and company from Mike Tetlow and numerous other hawk aficionados. The season was plagued by bad weather from the snow and cold of March to cold in April and then persistent NE breezes in May. The bad weather in March led to the month's total not matching that of the first two days of the watch at the end of February until 19 March. The last two days of the month brought over half the total hawks for the month. The 2340 Turkey Vultures were 79% of all raptors for the month. Only Red-shouldered Hawk at 183 and Red-

tailed Hawk at 275 also made triple digits. No Northern Goshawk was sighted at the hawkwatch, but there were two elsewhere. Two Ospreys arrived right at month's end. There were six Golden Eagle reports from 11-31 March, with four of those away from Braddock Bay. April started very slowly, but Turkey Vultures continued flooding past. Single Northern Goshawks were seen at both Braddock Bay and in Wayne County. A single Broad-winged Hawk was spotted in Henrietta on 19 April followed by the first 110 at the hawkwatch on 21 April, with a peak day of 5675 passing on 24 April. While the month seemed slow, there were eight days with > 1000 birds. May produced hawkwatch highlights of a Mississippi Kite seen from the Frisbee Hill site on 14 May, a rare, immature dark morph Broad-winged Hawk circling overhead on 21 May and seen later that day passing the Derby Hill watch, an immature light morph Swainson's Hawk on 23 May, and a record high single-day count of 115 Bald Eagles on 31 May. There were only two 1000+ bird days in May.

Among the marsh birds, rails were poorly reported as usual, but Common Gallinule was a bit more widely reported and in good numbers in the NMWMA at Van Dyne Spoor with a maximum count of 50 on 29 May. American Coot also was also most numerous in the Van Dyne Spoor area, with a peak count of 80 on 7 April. Sandhill Crane was well reported each month both passing the hawkwatch, > 65 total, and at many other locations, totaling another 52+ individuals.

With the snow and cold, among the shorebirds only a Wilson's Snipe mid month and a Greater Yellowlegs on 30 March were added to a few more sightings each of the early arrivals of February, Killdeer and American Woodcock. Continuing cold in April saw shorebirds slow in arriving, but 11 species were reported with some notable, including a Ruff and Reeve at Carncross Road in the NMWMA found by Wade and Melissa Rowley on 14 April, the Region's 16th record and certainly the same birds as found just outside our Region near Port Byron on 10-12 April. The Reeve was located again in the Van Dyne Spoor area on 15 April, with other sightings on 16 and 20 April back near Port Byron and finally the Ruff in nearly complete alternate plumage at Benning Marsh on 6 May. There were many excellent photos taken of these birds. Habitat was again limited and most shorebird reports were passing birds along the Lake Ontario shore or birds pausing on piers or narrow beaches. Still, 24 species were reported in May. Rarer species included: American Avocet in the NMWMA on 31 May; American Golden-Plover on 27 May; the Region's fifth spring Piping Plover at the East Spit of Braddock Bay found by Brian and Brooke Morse on 1 May and seen by many; a record high count of 27 Willets on logs and stumps in Salmon Creek behind Docksidiers on 7 May; Long-billed Dowitcher on 15 May; and Upland Sandpiper and Wilson's Phalarope, formerly regular and now sometimes missed in spring. Counts were generally not great by historical standards, but the best were: 64 Lesser Yellowlegs, 115 Dunlin, 70 Least Sandpiper, and 183 Semipalmated Sandpiper.

Moving along to the gulls and terns, a Bonaparte's Gull was reported on 1 March but no others until 27 March. A major gull event for the season was triggered by a large fish die-off, mainly gizzard shad, in Irondequoit Bay drawing at times over 10,000 large gulls to the feast. Sample numbers for several dates will be included in the species section of this report, but maxima included: 3000 Ring-billed on 3 April; 7500 Herring, 15 Iceland, 27 Lesser Black-backed, and 8 Glaucous on 8 April; 100 Great Black-backed on 4 March; and a report and photos of a **Yellow-legged/Lesser Blacked Gull** by Andy Guthrie and Tim Lenz on 8 April. In addition, there were high numbers of all the normal winter gull species across the Region in March and April and lingering on into May in small numbers. Other notable gulls were adult Little Gulls off Brown Road on 18 April and near Chimney Bluffs on 5 May, both in Wayne County, and an adult Laughing Gull at the newly constructed barrier beach island at the mouth of Braddock Bay on 25-26 May, found by Brad Carlson and Andy Guthrie and seen and photographed by several others. All the regular terns were well reported, all arriving in April at late-normal dates relative to recent history. The peak count of 38 Black Terns was in the Van Dyne Spoor area, as usual in recent years.

As usual, the non-passerine landbirds grouping provided few real highlights, though there are interesting notes. We can start with no Eurasian Collared-Dove reports this season. Their presence in the Region has been somewhat anomalous relative to increasing numbers in most areas they have invaded. We seem to only retain a few individuals around the Greenwell farm in the Town of Hamlin seen only sporadically by birders. Cuckoo numbers were good, though not unusually high. This winter's Snowy Owl invasion lingered on, with at least 13 individuals at 10 locations in March. One individual near the hawkwatch all day on 2 April was a treat for many observers. One near Retsof in Livingston County on 19 April was thought to be the last until another was reported from just south of Route 104 in the Town of Gaines, Genesee County, on 12 May. The DEC's Short-eared Owl/raptor surveys out of the Avon office found good numbers in March, tapering off in the 10 and 24 April dates. Others birding the Nations Road IBA found good numbers, with a maximum of 27 on 7 March. The usual owl roost surveys in the "Owl Woods" area along Manitou Beach Road were carried out by volunteers through Braddock Bay Raptor Research, with a summary report prepared by Jim Adams. It was a below average year for Long-eared Owl, with 20 reported between a late 28 March arrival and 1 May. Northern Saw-whet Owl numbers were even farther below average, with only two each added in March and April to the three in late February for a very low total of seven. The season was salvaged a bit by the surprise appearance of a Boreal Owl, the 18th Regional record, on 25 April, staying for the day to be observed by over 24 observers and well photographed. Common Nighthawk numbers were poor, with the maximum only 42 on 17 May. E. Whip-poor-will arrived on 28 April, and a few were heard off and on through mid-May. As usual, interesting woodpecker notes are few: nearly all the

Red-headed Woodpecker reports were from Hamlin Beach SP; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker reports dropped to very few in March before migrants returned in April; and there were good numbers of Northern Flicker migrants reported along the Lake Ontario shore on 24 April—62 at Hamlin Beach SP, 118 passing the BB hawkwatch, and 100 at the West Spit of Braddock Bay, plus 50 off Broadway Road in Wayne County the previous day. Wrapping up this grouping, the regular falcons were all reported in typical numbers at the hawkwatch and elsewhere for the season, with summary numbers in the species section.

Overall, the passerines continued the trend of the past several years, with essentially all expected species for the season reported and “misses” either rarities or related to timing in the various months. March started slowly, with only about six newly arriving species and some of those judgment calls vs. overwintering: Eastern Phoebe, Barn Swallow, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, American Pipit, Field Sparrow, and Eastern Meadowlark. Numbers of half-hardy species continuing were down in this “Starvation Moon”. A surprise was a male Scarlet Tanager in a private location in Wayne County on 17 March (*fide* Dave Spier). April banding was off to a weak start, with only 897 new bands and 654 of those kinglets. Interestingly, the numbers of kinglets banded crossed over from more Golden-crowned to more Ruby-crowned from 23 to 24 April, the same dates Jim Adams noted for the apparent crossover in numbers in Oatka Creek Park. It is also fun to picture handling the 164 Ruby-crowned Kinglets banded on 27 April. Normally these comparisons are missed, as Golden-crowned Kinglets typically have mostly passed by the time the official banding season starts in mid-April; this season was delayed by weather. Another pair of interesting notes is Black-capped Chickadee at zero banded in April and only six for the season vs. 441 and 593, respectively, in 2017 and Winter Wren continuing its seesaw only opposite to the chickadees and with smaller numbers involved. Many passerines arrived at near to normal dates in April, but only 11 species of warblers were reported, where often the number is over 20, and only five individuals of three species were banded! Species often tallied in large numbers passing along the Lake Ontario shore, e.g. Blue Jay, American Crow, and American Robin, were noted in only relatively low peak numbers in both April and May. A **Western Meadowlark**, the first in the Region since 2008, was found in the NMWMA along Armitage by Joe Brin and Renee Kittleman on 14 April and seen by over 108 others by the end of that month and over 60 more in May. The bird stayed to the end of the season and well beyond and often “strayed” south across the road into Seneca County and Region 3 to the delight of the County and Regional listers. A male Yellow-headed Blackbird found by visiting birds Tony DeSantis and Angela Lambert on 4 May in the cattails and often on the lawn with other blackbirds behind restaurants at the NW corner of Irondequoit Bay stayed until 7 May and was enjoyed at close range by over 50 other observers reporting. A second male Yellow-headed Blackbird was found on Church Road in the Town of Hamlin on 19 May by Andy Guthrie.

Moving into May, we jumped right into warmer weather and the arrivals quickly caught up, with most biased toward the first quartile of their arrival date distributions, a trend since we first asked observers to note especially first observation dates for a set of 93 species beginning in 1987. Numbers generally remained low, with many observers noting “too quiet” periods scattered through time and across our geographic Region. Scarcer/rare species reported included: Worm-eating Warbler, “Lawrence’s” Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Clay-colored Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, and Yellow-headed Blackbird. For the season, BBBO banding was the lowest in the past seven years, but only slightly below two years ago, and most species totals were within one standard deviation (STD) of their averages of the past six years. Only five species varied by > 2 STD—House Wren and Ruby-crowned Kinglet up in totals and Least Flycatcher, Yellow Warbler, and Yellow-rumped Warbler down. Sparrows, which were uniformly down last year, were back up closer to average this season. For the whole season, the winter finches were missing other than small numbers of Common Redpoll and Pine Siskin.

Most of the records summarized here are from monthly downloads of eBird data totaling about 161,642 lines of records this season. The geneseebirds or western New York listserv adds on the order of about 5% to the total, and reports from banding and other studies and personal communications add additional information. With events like the Global Big Day in May, the numbers of observers contributing lists to eBird are now typically over 200 most months and exceeded 400 this May. All records add to the picture we can assemble for what occurred in the season. Interested readers can seek more details in summaries online at the hawkcount, BBBO, and RBA websites.

BRADDOCK BAY HAWKWATCH TOTALS

Species	Arrival	Max	Max Date	Total
Black Vulture	9 Apr	1	9 Apr	2
Turkey Vulture	4 Mar	2492	2 Apr	21893
Mississippi Kite	14 May	1	14 May	1
Osprey	31 Mar	17	1 May	99
Bald Eagle	6 Mar	115	31 May	801
N. Harrier	5 Mar	39	21 Apr	268
Sharp-sh. Hawk	15 Mar	355	5 May	1941
Cooper’s Hawk	1 Mar	14	31 Mar	110
N. Goshawk	9 Apr	1	9 Apr	1
Red-shld Hawk	22 Mar	107	31 Mar	250
Swainson’s Hawk	23 May	1	23 May	13
Broad-wngd Hawk	21 Apr	6237	1 May	21518
Red-tailed Hawk	4 Mar	122	31 Mar	1084
Rough-legd Hawk	1 Mar	6	31 Mar	47
GoldenEagle	19 Mar	7	24 Apr	17

Am. Kestrel	18 Mar	25	24 Apr	200
Merlin	25 Mar	6	23 Apr	26
Peregrine Falcon	22 Mar	6	14 May	16

Total including unidentified raptors: 48,276

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ABBREVIATIONS

b – indicate banded this season, usually at BBBO’s Kaiser-Manitou passerine banding station; **BB** – Braddock Bay, MONR; **BB-ES** – East Spit at mouth of Braddock including newly constructed barrier beach island just off spit; **BB-HW** – Braddock Bay Hawkwatch; **BB-WS** – West Spit of Braddock Bay; **BBBO** – Braddock Bay Bird Observatory; **CIWMA** – Conesus Inlet WMA, LIVI; **ConL** – Conesus L, LIVI; **DEP** – Durand-Eastman P, Rochester; **ED** – off Edgemere Dr., T Greece, MONR; **G** – T Greece, MONR; **H** – T Hamlin, MONR; **HANA** – High Acres Nature Area, T Perinton; MONR; **HB** – Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; **HB-W** – Hamlin Beach SP, West end trails; **HB-YC** – Hamlin Beach SP, Yanty Creek trails at east end; **ICW** – Island Cottage Woods, T Greece, MONR; **IBO** – Irondequoit Bay Outlet to Lake Ontario; **IB-S** – Irondequoit Bay south, LaSalle Landing P and nearby; **LSP** – Letchworth SP; **M** – Manitou Beach area, MONR; **MP** – Mendon Ponds P, MONR; **NHamRd** – N. Hamlin Road, T Hamlin, MONR; **NMWMA** – Northern Montezuma WMA, T of Savannah, WAYN; **NMWMA (AR)** – north side of Armitage Rd.; **NMWMA (CR)** – along Carncross Road east of Savannah-Spring Lake Rd.; **NMWMA (MT)** – Marten Tract off Savannah Spring L Rd; **NMWMA (MRdM)** – Morgan Rd. marshes near DEC field office; **NMWMA (VDS)** – area along Van Dyne Spoor, T Savannah, WAYN; **NMWMA (SCU)** – Sandhill Crane Unit, T Savannah, WAYN; **OB** – Ontario Beach P, Charlotte MONR; **OCP** – Oatka Creek P, MONR; **PtB** – Point Breeze, Orleans County at border with Region 1; **SalCrk** – Salmon Creek, T Greece, MONR; **Spt** – Sodus Pt, WAYN; **TCEA** – Twin Cedars Environmental Area, T Avon, LIVI; **W** – T of Webster, MONR; **WP** – Webster P.

WATERFOWL – VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: 5 Jagger Rd, T Palmyra 12 Mar (MG); TCEA 23 Mar (BCar); SalCrk 31 Mar (CW); last 6 Silver L – S WYOM 2 Apr (RSt).

Snow Goose: max 35000 T Piffard LIVI 20 Mar (DBe); 10000 Broadway & Brown Rds WAYN 25-26 Mar (W&MR); 6000 sev loc 5, 26 Mar (sev); last NMWMA (Morgan Rd) 31 May (DDo, W&MR).

Ross's Goose: 3 & max 4 Church Rd, Hamlin 4 Mar (AGu & BCar); 3 Poplar Hill Rd, Lima 25 Mar (BCar); 12 rep, 13 ind 6 loc 4-29 Mar.

Brant: arr OB 15 Apr, early; max 15 Beechwood SP WAYH 22 May.

Cackling Goose: max 26 TCEA 23 Mar (BCar); 39 rep 80 ind 21 loc all Mar; last 3 NHamRd 18 Apr (AGu).

Canada Goose: max 6000 Church Rd, Hamlin 4 Mar (TL, NC).

Mute Swan: max 80 SalCrk 27 Mar; 65 Buck Pnd G 28 Apr; 72 Buck Pnd G 12 May.

Trumpeter Swan: max 12 NMWMA 27 Apr; not as visible as some years.

Tundra Swan: max 218 T Caledonia LIVI 1 Mar (MW); 200 NMWMA (CR) 24 Mar (SB, JMcGo); last G 23 Apr.

Gadwall: max 150 NMWMA (VDS) 7 Apr, low max.

Eurasian Wigeon: 1m NMWMA (CR) 1 Mar (LL, W&MR, DWWh); 1m NMWMA (Deep Muck) 6 Mar (GD); 1m NMWMA (MT) 4 Apr (W&MR); 1m N HamRd 18 Apr (AGu, NP).

Am. Wigeon: max 225 NMWMA (Deep Muck) 13 Mar; last NMWMA (MT) 22 May.

Am. Black Duck: max 35 NMWMA (VDS) 7 Apr, very low max.

Mallard: max 200 NMWMA (CR) 1 Mar, low max.

Blue-winged Teal: arr 1-5 BB area 31 Mar, late.

N. Shoveler: 28 Shore Acres Pds, H 7 May (R&SSp), high number for loc & date.

N. Pintail: max 4000 NMWMA (CR) 8 Mar (JWo), good count; last BB – ES 31 May (BCar).

Green-winged Teal: max 145 Genesee Airfield 14 Apr, low max; NMWMA (MMRdM) 18 May.

Canvasback: last Silver L – S WYOM 28 Apr.

Redhead: max 8100 ConL 15 Mar (MW), good count.

Ring-necked Duck: max 350 NMWMA (Deep Muck) 6 Mar; last BB 17 May.

Greater Scaup: max 894 off Edgemere Dr, G 1 Apr; last BB 5 May.

Lesser Scaup: max 275 ConL 7 Apr (BriM).

Ring-necked Duck x Lesser Scaup: BB-HE 15 Mar (GL, *et al.*).

King Eider: imm m off G 17 & 18 Mar (MBa, JiM); last 1 1st win m off Edgemere Dr, G 1 Apr (JeB, CW).

Harlequin Duck: last 1 m Chimney Bluffs WAYN 11 May (MG). **Surf Scoter:** last HB 20 May.

White-winged Scoter: last HB 12 May, early dep.

Black Scoter: last off Webster 14 Apr, early dep.

Long-tailed Duck: max 1340 off Edgemere Dr, G 1 Apr (JeB, AJ); 1000 BB-ES 17 May (AGu, BCar).

Bufflehead: max 245 off Edgemere Dr, G 1 Apr (JeB, AJ, CW).

Com. Goldeneye: max 202 ConL 6 Mar; Chimney Bluffs WAYN 11 May (MG).

Red-breasted Merganser: max 760 HB 13 May, low max and late for max.

Ruddy Duck: 25 Silver L – S WYOM 2 May.

Ring-necked Pheasant: max 11 Nations Rd survey 13 May (MW), good count for recent years.

Red-throated Loon: max 27 off Edgemere Dr, G 1 Apr, low max; last off Edgemere Dr, G 30 May (JeB), late.

Com. Loon: 146 Cranberry Pd, G 21 Apr; max 577 WP lake parking area 28 Apr (RSp), *intro*; 114 WP Kanatota Lodge and W 28 Apr (RSp), *intro*.

Horned Grebe: max 458 off Edgemere Dr, G 1 Apr (JeB, AJ, CW); last Spt 14 May.

Red-necked Grebe: arr HB 1 Mar (I&WH), early; max 41 HB 2 Apr, low max; last HB 11 May.

Double-crested Cormorant: arr BB-HW 24 Mar; max 1000 IB 13 Apr (ST); 600 HB 30 May (RSp, KW).

Am. Bittern: arr BB-HW 4 Apr (RBU); T Rush MONR 6 Apr (MZ, BO), walking thru backyard, *intro*.

Least Bittern: arr Broadway Rd, T Wolcott WAYN 4 May.

Great Egret: arr SalCrk, T Parma & Cornwall Pres WAYN 30 Mar (R&SSp, JWi).

Green Heron: arr ConL 30 Mar (KC); early.

CATTLE EGRET (R2): Middle Rd, T Sodus and nearby 5 May (JWo, 9 oth obs, ph), now rare in spring.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr Webster 12 Apr (R&SSp), on Rt 104 borrow pit.

Black Vulture: first BB-HW 9 Mar; 2 HANA 8 May (MT); 2 W Walworth WAYN 8 May (MG).

Turkey Vulture: total 2390 BB-HW Mar, 79% of total birds for Mar; max 2492 BB-HW 2 Apr; 1800 Broadway Rd T Wolcott WAYN 11 Apr (W&MR).

HAWKS – LARIDS

Osprey: arr 1-3 BB-HW & nearby 31 Mar.
MISSISSIPPI KITE: 1 BB-Frisbee Hill 14 May (GL, *et al.*).

Bald Eagle: total 30 BB Mar; 181 BB + approx 160+ other many loc Apr; 74 BB-H 28 Apr, month max; 586 BB + approx 188 other many loc May; max 115 BB-H 31 May, record high 1-day count.

N. Goshawk: Hogan Pt, G 4 Mar (JiM, LM); 1 imm T Rush 18 Mar (MZ); Brown Rd, T Wolcott WAYN 18 Apr (W&MR); Fields Hill Rd, T Wolcott WAYN 5 May (SB, *et al.*).

Broad-winged Hawk: arr 1 T Henrietta 19 Apr (RMac); 110 BB-HW 21 Apr, 1st at hawkwatch; 5675 BB-HW 24 Apr; max 6237 BB-HW 11 May; 1 imm dark morph BB-HW 21 May (GL, *et al.*), soared overhead for good looks by all.

SWAINSON'S HAWK: 1 imm light morph BB-HW 23 May (GL, BW).

Rough-legged Hawk: last BB-H 20 May.

Golden Eagle: arr NMWMA (VDS) 11 Mar (W&MR); 6 ind 5 loc 19-31 Mar; total 12 BB-HW Mar; 8 ind 8 oth loc 11-30 Apr; BB-HW 1, 5, 19 May; Beechwood SP WAYN 9, 22 May (MG, JWo).

Virginia Rail: arr HANA 15 Apr.

Sora: HB-YC 2 Apr (RSp), Reg early.

Com. Gallinule: arr 6 NMWMA (VDS) 20 Apr; max 50 NMWMA (VDS) 29 May.

Am. Coot: max 80 NMWMA (VDS) 7 Apr.

Sandhill Crane: total 23 BB-HW 15-31 Mar; total 19+ at 5 oth loc Mar; total 26 BB-HW 1-28 Apr; 23+ ind 19+ other loc Apr; total 16 BB-HW 1-24 May; 10 ind sev oth migr loc 2-24 May; total 7 at 2 possible breeding loc May.

AM. AVOCET (R2): NMWMA (MRdM) 31 May (RP).

Black-bellied Plover: arr BB-ES 3 May; last 3-4 BB-ES 27 May.

Am. Golden-Plover: arr BB-ES 27 May (BCar, 7 oth obs), rare in spring.

Semipalmated Plover: arr Moscow Rd, H 3 May; max 33 NMWMA (MRdM) 26 May (JMcGo)

PIPING PLOVER: BB-ES 1 May (B&BM, 19 oth obs, ph), 5th Reg spring record.

Spotted Sandpiper: arr NMWMA (CR) 16 Apr.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr Geneseo Airfield 14 Apr (JK); last T Victor MONR 23 May.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr NMWMA (South Butler Unit) 30 Mar (W&MR).

Willet: arr to 27 SalCrk, G 7 May (RSp, DHo, ph, 15+ oth obs); last BB-ES 23 May (BriM).

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr NMWMA (CR) 10 Apr; max 64 T Riga MONR 3 May.

Upland Sandpiper: arr BB-HW 9 May (GL, *et al.*), only rep.

Whimbrel: arr OB 22 May (BCar); last BB-ES 26 May (BCar). **Ruddy Turnstone:** arr BB-ES 12 May (AGu, BriM).

Ruff: arr 1 m & 1 f NMWMA (CR) 14 Apr (W&MR, 13+ oth obs, ph), same birds as near Port Byron 10-12 Apr and seen later, *intro*; 1 f NMWMA (VDS) 15 Apr (SuD, BMC, AnM), *intro*.

Dunlin: arr NMWMA (CR) 8 Apr (BW, DDo); max 115 BB-ES 25 May.

Least Sandpiper: arr Hogan Pt 2 May; max 70 NMWMA (MRdM) 15 May, low max.

White-rumped Sandpiper: arr 1-2 2 loc H & 1 Spt 22 May; 3 oth rep.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr NMWMA (CR) & 11 Wyoming Flats 14 Apr; last Spt 23 May.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr 9 H & 5 Spt 20 May; max 183 BB-ES 28 May (AGu, MG).

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr NMWMA (CR) 22 Apr; last 5 MWMA (MRdM) 15 May.

Long-billed Dowitcher: arr NMWMA (MRdM) 15 May (W&MR), rare in spring.

Wilson's Snipe: 48 NMWMA (Railroad Rd) 15 Apr; max 49 Nations Rd 17 May. arr Nations Rd 20 Mar (DBe).

Wilson's Phalarope: NMWMA (MT) 20 May (DO), only rep.

Bonaparte's Gull: arr 1 Cranberry Pd, G 1 Mar; max 82 SalCrk, G 5 Apr, low max.

Little Gull: arr 1 ad Brown Rd, T Wolcott WAYN 18 Apr (W&MR): 1 ad Chimney Bluffs WAYN 5 May (ShB, *et al.*).

LAUGHING GULL (R2): 1 ad BB-ES 25-26 May (BCar, AGu, ph, 10+ oth obs).

Ring-billed Gull: 1400 IB-S 11 Mar; max 3000 IB – Bay Front 3 Apr (JWo); 1500 IBO 9 Apr (RN); 1400 NHamRd 14 Apr (AGu);

Herring Gull: 2800 IB-S 11 Mar; 5000 IB-S 25 Mar (BriM); max 7500 IB – Bay Front 8 Apr (TL); 6500 IB – LaSalle Landing 8 Apr; 1000 HANA 1 May (DSH).

Iceland Gull: 9 IB-S 31 Mar; total 55+ ind 16 loc Mar; max 15 IB – Bay Front 8 May (AGu, TL); 118 lines in eBird many loc Apr; 6 T Riga MONR 2 May (AGu); last IB_S 6 May.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 10 T Riga MONR 28 Mar; 44+ ind 14 loc Mar; 27 IB – Bay Front 8 May (AGu, TL); 31 – max 33 T Riga MONR 11-12 Apr (BriM); 104 lines in eBird many loc Apr; 11 ind 8 loc 1-26 May.

YELLOW-LEGGED/LESSERBLACK-BACKED GULL: IB – Bay Front 8 May (AGu, TL, ph), interesting gull.

Glaucous Gull: total 29 ind 13 loc Mar; 4 ind 4 loc Mar; 5 ind 5 loc 16-20 Apr; 8 IB – Bay Front 8 May (AGu, TL); last off Edgemere Dr, G 4 May.

Herring x Glaucous Gull: IB Newport Marina 18 Mar (TL).

Great Black-backed Gull: max 100 IB-S 18 Mar (BH).

Herring x Great Black-backed Gull: OB 15 Apr (BriM).

Caspian Tern: arr Bear Creek Harbor, T Williamson WAYN 2 Apr (W&MR); max 186 BB-ES 1 May; 170 Spt 5 May.

Black Tern: arr NMWMA (MRdM) 20 Apr (W&MR), early; BB-HW 3 May; max 38 NMWMA (VDS) 20 May; good count

Com. Tern: arr 2 NMWMA (CR) 15 Apr; max 96 PtB ORLE 5 May (AVK).

Forster's Tern: arr Spt 19 Apr; 11 Apr (MG, TM), early; 1-3 ind 4 loc 5-27 May.

PIGEONS – PARROTS

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: no reports.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr White Bridge Rd, T Sparta LIVI & NMWMA (AR) 14 May.

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr Church Trail, G 3 May.

Snowy Owl: total 13+ ind 10 loc Mar; BB-HW 2 Apr (mob, ph), sitting in field next to hawkwatch all day; Retsof LIVI 19 Apr; last south of Rt 104, T Gaines GNE 12 May (MM-C).

Long-eared Owl: total 3 M – Owl Woods 28, 30, 31 Mar; WP 22 Apr; max 4 M – Owl Woods 22 Apr; total 16 M – Owl woods Apr; M – Owl Woods 1 May; roost count low at only 16 for the season, *intro*.

Short-eared Owl: max 27 Nations Rd 7 Mar (J&TG); total 42+ ind 8 loc Mar; DEC SEOW Survey data summarized by C. Hoh, *intro*; last BB area & Nations Rd 30 Apr.

BOREAL OWL: M – Owl Woods 25 Apr (NP, ph, 24+ oth obs), 18th Reg record.

N. Saw-whet Owl: total 2 M – Owl Woods 28, 29 Mar; Porter Rd, T Naples, ONTA 6 Apr; total 2 M – Owl Woods 24, 27 Apr; very low total of only 7 for the season in the Owl

Woods roost area, *intro*; pr Ossian State Forest LIVI 13 May.

Com. Nighthawk: arr NMWMA (MRdM) 6 May; max 42 G 17 May (KG), low max.

E. Whip-poor-will: arr M – BBBO 28 Apr (RK), typical arrival; max 5 M – Owl Woods 2 May (GL); last M – Owl Woods 17 May.

Chimney Swift: arr BB-HW 1 May; max 75 Cobbs Hill 12 May (TL).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr BB & Irondequoit 2 May; total b 27 M 4-31 May (BBBO).

Red-headed Woodpecker: nearly all rep from HB Mar & Apr; added 14 oth loc in May, all small numbers.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: singles 2 loc Mar; migr and typical numbers after 2 Apr.

N. Flicker: 50 Broadway Rd WAYN 23 Apr; big movement on 24 Apr – max 118 BB-HW, 100 BB-WS, & 62 HB.

Am. Kestrel: total 70+ ind 38+ loc Mar.

Merlin: total 25 at 21 loc Mar; 21 ind 16 loc Mar; total 13 BB-HW 1-27 Apr; total 22 at 18 oth loc Apr; total 11 BB-HW 2-18 May; 13 ind 11 other loc 2-19 May.

Peregrine Falcon: 13 ind 10 loc 3-26 Mar; 1-27 Mar; total 2 BB-HW 27, 30 Apr; 13 ind 12 oth loc Apr; total 10 BB-HW 1-25 May; 9 ind 8 oth loc 1-31 May; nesting in downtown Rochester, typical, see posts rfalconcam website.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Casey P T Ontario WAYN 9 May (JWi); Rush Oak Openings 20 May (MBe, BCar, JiM, +); Holy Sepulchre Cemetery 25 May (DDa, CG, MG, AGu, BriM); WP 25 May (CK).

E. Wood-Pewee: arr Indian Fort Pres, Geneseo 9 May.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr Bear Creek, T Williamson WAYN & Grandview Heights, G 15 May; total b 44 M 16-31 May.

Acadian Flycatcher: arr Huckleberry Swamp WAYN 13 May.

“Trail’s” Flycatcher: arr 1b M 17 May; max b 45 M 28 May; total b 131 M 17 May thru, good number.

Alder Flycatcher: arr Harter Rd LIVI 16 May.

Willow Flycatcher: arr Geneseo & South Conesus LIVI 8 May.

Least Flycatcher: arr HB-YC 24 Apr (RSp), early; total b 30 6-19 May.

E. Phoebe: arr 2 Lakeville LIVI 24 Mar (TB).

N. Shrike: 14+ ind 13 loc Mar; last BB & NMWMA (CR) 21 Apr.
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr Indian Fort Pres, Geneseo & Old Duck Inn, T Galen WAYN 4 May.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr H 24 Apr.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr TCEA 7 May.
Red-eyed Vireo: arr Cumming Nature Center ONTA 2 May; total b 38 M 14–31 May.
Blue Jay: max 300 BB 5 May, very low max; total b 40 M 2–27 May, back to normal b.
Am. Crow: no large counts again this spring.
Fish Crow: more reports of birds away from the T Charlotte & G area, still mainly not far from the lakeshore, but sev reports well inland.
Purple Martin: arr NMWMA (MRdM) 10 Apr (GDa, MG).
Tree Swallow: max 500 ConL 19 Apr, low max.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr 3 BB-HW & 1 Webster 13 Apr; max 55 CIWMA 11 May.
Bank Swallow: arr North Ponds P, Webster 13 May; max 1500 IB-S 12 May (TL).
Cliff Swallow: arr SPt 16 Apr; max 15 Hemlock L P 18 May.
Barn Swallow: arr off Edgemere Dr, G 31 Mar, early; max 300 ConL 19 Apr.
Black-capped Chickadee: total b 6 M (BBBO) 1–30 May, contrasted with 593 in 2017, *intro*.
Brown Creeper: total b 38 M (BBBO) 19–30 Apr.
Winter Wren: arr BB-WS & Harter Rd, T Sparta LIVI 31 Mar; total b 16 M (BBB) 19 Apr–7 May, an “up” year, *intro*.
Marsh Wren: arr 2 CIWMA 23 Apr; max 28 NMWMA (MRdM) 12 May (AnM).
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 40 Beechwood SP WAYN 16 Apr; max b 49 M (BBBO) 23 Apr; total b 236 M (BBBO) 19 Apr–7 May.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr NMWMA (VDS) 29 Mar; max b 164 M (BBBO) 27 Apr; 65 Church Trail, G 28 Apr; total b 740 M (BBBO) 18 Apr–28 May, record high spring b; last 1b M (BBBO) 28 May.
Veery: arr Cobbs Hill & HANA 4 May.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr Church Trail, G 14 May; total b 13 M (BBBO) 18–28 May, low; max 4 ICW 22 May, low..
Swainson’s Thrush: arr BB-WS 2 May; max 19 HB-W 22 May (AGu); max b 26 M (BBBO) 25 May; total b 88 M (BBBO) 6–31 May.
Hermit Thrush: total b 37 M (BBBO) 23 Apr – 8 May.

Wood Thrush: arr 2 DEP 28 Apr.
Am. Robin: 400 BB-HW 31 Mar, low max; only 3 oth rep Mar & 7 oth rep Apr over 100.
Gray Catbird: arr BB-WS 23 Apr; max 36 HB-W 12 May (AGu, BriM); max b 24 M (BBBO) 24 May; total b 200 M (BBBO) 5–31 May.
Am. Pipit: arr 7 BB-HW & 1 Beatty Pt, G & 1 Burger P, G 31 Mar; max 66 H 5 May; last 8 Edgemere Dr, G 26 May.
Cedar Waxwing: max 300 BB-WS 26 May.

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: max 22 NHamRd 11 Mar; last H 22 Apr.
Snow Bunting: max 85T Caledonia LIVI 14 Mar; last 2 BB-HW 31 Mar.
Ovenbird: arr HANA 27 Apr (BCad). T Bristol ONTA 27 Apr (KK), early.
Worm-eating Warbler: Chimney Bluffs WAYN 3 May (MG); Beechwood SP WAYN 4, 13 May (DDa, JWi, LC-B); rare.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Nations Rd, Jaycox Crk, Geneseo 22 May SDA).
N. Waterthrush: arr BB-WS 23 Apr; max b 6 M (BBBO) 16 May; total b 43 M (BBBO) 28 Apr–28 May.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr Thousand Acre Swamp, T Penfield MONR 5 May (EK); T Nunda LIVI 6 May (J&SG); Tunley Rd, T Sodus WAYN 6 May (JMcGo); Beechwood SP WAYN 8, 14 May (KGa, 6 oth obs); M – Owl Woods 14, 15 May (BCar, JiM); BB-WS 15 May (MG); 1b M (BBBO) 25 May.
Blue-winged Warbler: arr 1 sev loc 3 May.
Golden-winged Warbler x Blue-winged Warbler: CIWMA 19 May (KC).
“Brewster’s” Warbler: arr SPt 6 May (JMcGo); Norway Rd GENE 14 May (AGu); MP 15, 16 May (STa, BCar); BB-WS 15 May (MG); .
“LAWRENCE’S” WARBLER: MP 11, 15–24 May (BCar, 8 oth obs); HB-W 12 May (AGu, BriM); rare.
Black-and-white Warbler: total b 25 1–28 May.
PROTHONOTARY WARBLER (R2): arr NMWMA (AR) 5–31 May (85+ obs, ph), nesting, using nest boxes, also south of road in SENE, Reg 3; CIWMA 8 May (MW).
Tennessee Warbler: arr 2 BB-WS 2 May (AK); max 20 Cobbs Hill P 21 May (DHo); total b 22 M (BBBO) 10–29 May.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr M (BBBO) 2 May (RK, AK); total 19 ind 15 loc 2–21 May; total b 5 M (BBBO) 9–31 May.

Nashville Warbler: arr Webster Big Field 27 Apr (AGa), early.

Mourning Warbler: total b 25 M (BBBO) 9-31 May.

Kentucky Warbler: Norway Rd GENE 14 May (RSp, DBe); Brick Schoolhouse Rd, T Sodus WAYN 20 May (R&SSp); BB-WS 21 May (MG); rare.

Com. Yellowthroat: arr CIWMA 16 Apr (KC), early; max 24 Amy's Pd WAYN 13 May (RBA field trip); max b 20 M (BBBO) 22 May; total b 139 M (BBBO) 5-31 May.

Hooded Warbler: arr CIWMA 3 May; max 60+ LSP 30 May (RSp, KW), good count.

Am. Redstart: arr 1-3 ind 6 loc 3 May; max 26 HB-W 12, 22 May (AGu, BriM); max b 51 M (BBBO) 22 May; total b 184 M (BBBO) 7-31 May.

Cape May Warbler: arr BB area 2 May; max 27 TCEA 12 May (AS), good count; last Church Trail, G 26 May.

Cerulean Warbler: arr NMWMA (VDS) 2 May (W&MR), early.

N. Parula: arr 4 loc 3 May; last BB-WS 29 May (AdM), late.

Magnolia Warbler: arr 1-2 M – Owl Woods 5 May; max 40 Church Trail, G 17 May; max b 38 M (BBBO) 26 May, low max; total b 237 M (BBBO) 8-31 May.

Yellow Warbler: arr 1-2 ind 4 loc 1 May; max 44 HB-W 12 May (AGu, BriM); max b 13 M (BBBO) 6 May, low max; total b 66 M (BBBO) 1-28 May.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr North Avon 24 Apr; max b 5 M (BBBO) 22 May; total b 38 M (BBBO) 3-28 May.

Blackpoll Warbler: arr T Gates MONR 8 May; total b 9 M (BBBO) 15-30 May, low.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr 2b M (BBBO) 24 Apr; total b 68 M (BBBO) 24 Apr - 31 May.

Palm Warbler: arr North Ponds P, Webster 19 Apr (JWi); max 35 Church Trail, G 1 May (NK); max b 24 M (BBBO) 7 May; total b 52 M (BBBO) 1-14 May; last Grandview Heights, G 27 May (KGr).

Pine Warbler: arr North Rush MONR 6 Apr (NK), early.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr 2 Church Trail, G 31 Mar (AGa); max 86 HB - W 7 May (RSp); max b 15 M (BBBO) 6 May, low; total b 35 M (BBBO) 27 Apr-25 May, low.

Prairie Warbler: arr M (BBBO) 6 May (8 obs); Beechwood SP WAYN 8, 9 May (KGa, MG); 2 Bonner Rd LIVI 13 May (AS); Nations Rd, Geneseo 13 May (KT); East Rd, LSP 16

May(JG); 1b M (BBBO) 16 May; good number for relatively rare bird in Reg.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr Camp Eastman, Rochester 29 Apr.

Canada Warbler: arr Church Trail, G 10 May; total b 47 M (BBBO) 15-31 May.

Wilson's Warbler: arr 2 TCEA 3 May (MW), early; max b 13 B (BBBO) 25 May; total b 95 M (BBBO) 9-30 May.

Yellow-breasted Chat: 1b M (BBBO) 14 May, only report, now locally rare.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

E. Towhee: Rochester 2 Mar (KM), overwin; arr T Canadice ONTA 8 Apr (BH).

Am. Tree Sparrow: max 150 TECA 4 Apr (MW); last BB area 6 May.

Chipping Sparrow: arr NMWMA (CR) 8 Apr.

Clay-colored Sparrow: arr North Avon LIVI 24 Apr (MW), Reg record early; Indian Fort Pres Geneseo 4 May (JK); 1-2 Cook Rd, H 6-26 May (AGu, 16+ oth obs); Nations Rd, Geneseo 7 May (TB, KC); CIWMA 11 May (TB, KC); Lakeshore Rd, T Kendall MONR 14 May (AGu).

Field Sparrow: 3 rep singles 3 loc 2-22 Mar, likely overwinter; Lakeville LIVI & TCEA 2 Apr.

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr North Avon LIVI 24 Apr.

Fox Sparrow: Ellison P, T Penfield MONR 12 Mar, overwintering; last ICW 30 Apr; no high counts reported.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Thousand Acre Swamp, T Penfield 4 May; total b 30 M (BBBO) 9-30 May.

Swamp Sparrow: max 33 CIWMA 23 May (MW), survey.

White-throated Sparrow: max 28 Isaac Gordon Pres, T Pittsford 6 May (NK); total b 102 M (BBBO) 23 Apr-29 May, low.

White-crowned Sparrow: last BB-WS 26 May, often found into June.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 75 Cobbs Hill P 12 Apr & Mt Hope Cemetery, Rochester 13 Apr.

Scarlet Tanager: 1 m private loc WAYN a7 Mar (fide DSp), very early or very rare overwin ind; arr Irondequoit 3 Apr.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 5000 NMWMA (SCU) 28 Mar (KGa).

E. Meadowlark: arr 2 H 1 Mar (AGu), early; max 10 Lakeville LIVI 17 Mar.

WESTERN MEADOWLARK: NMWMA (AR) 14 Apr thru (JBr, RK, mob, ph), first in Reg since 2008, over 168 rep, *intro*.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: 1m IB
– NW 4-7 May (TD, AL, 50+ oth obs, ph),
intro; 1m Church Rd, H 19 May (AGu).

Rusty Blackbird: max 300 NMWMA (CR) 21
Apr (AWie, GDu); 165 BB-HW 24 Apr; May
max 37 BB-WS 2 May (AGu); last Church
Trail 17 May (JaG).

Com. Grackle: max 5000 NMWMA (CR) 19
Apr (TL).

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 200 Church
Trail, G 12 Apr.

Orchard Oriole: arr 3 loc 2 May.

Com. Redpoll: max 11 BB-HW 29 Mar; last T
Williamson WAYN 2 Apr.

Pine Siskin: monthly max: 40 WP 18 Mar
(TL); 29 M – Owl Woods 23 Apr (BCar); 41
HB 1 May (AGu).

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REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

Bill Ostrander

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After an unusually warm February, March and April were unusually cold. In Ithaca, the average low temperature in March was 21°F, 2.1° below normal. The average high temperature was 36.3°, 5.7° below normal. Total precipitation was 3.24", 0.6" more than normal. Snowfall totaled 20.9", 9.2" more than normal. Snow depth peaked at 10" on 15 March. At least trace amounts of snow were on the ground from 2 to 23 March. In April, the average low temperature was 28.7°, 5.2° below normal and the average high was 47.9°, 7.7° below normal. The 2.11" of precipitation was 1.18" less than normal. Total snowfall was 3.6", 0.2" more than normal. May warmed up, with an average low temperature of 47.7°, 4.2° above normal and average high temperature of 72.8°, 5.4° above normal. Precipitation was 3.86", 0.67" more than normal.

An incredibly large flock of Snow Geese spent time loafing on Cayuga Lake in mid-March. Dave Kennedy put good effort into estimating the number and came up with 2.5 million. One Ross's Goose managed to extricate itself from the hoards of Snow Geese and accommodately lingered close to the Wildlife Drive at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge through 28 May. Tim Lenz's trip to Seneca Lake State Park on 5 March turned up a flock of 37 Cackling Geese, a Barnacle Goose X Cackling Goose hybrid, and a Snow Goose X Canada Goose hybrid. It is possible that the Cackling Goose and Barnacle X Cackling Goose hybrid were the same as those seen in the same location in November. Another Snow Goose X Canada Goose hybrid appeared at Montezuma NWR. Seventeen Trumpeter Swans in the Savannah Mucklands and 1350 Tundra Swans on Cayuga Lake were both high spring counts.

Observers recorded high counts for several duck species: Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, American Wigeon, Surf Scoter, and Bufflehead. White-winged Scoters frequented Myers Point on Cayuga Lake through most of the season. After a two-week absence, nine more appeared there on 27 May for a late record of the species.

Observers also recorded high counts for Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, and Horned Grebe. A Red-necked Grebe on 21 May on Seneca Lake and a Red-throated Loon on 30 May on Canandaigua Lake were both late occurrences for their species. Rare Eared Grebes were reported from Cayuga and Seneca Lakes. American White Pelicans were at Montezuma NWR from the beginning of April through mid-May.

High numbers were recorded for the more common waders: Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Green Heron, and Black-crowned Night-Heron. Julia Lewis photographed an early Least Bittern in Steuben County in April. Rare waders, all at Montezuma NWR, included a Cattle Egret in mid-May, a Snowy Egret that was present through most of the latter half of May, and Glossy Ibis that was observed twice eight days apart in mid-May.

Osprey numbers continued to increase in the Region. Meena Haribal had a high count of 20 on a trip around the Cayuga Lake Basin, and Samuel Payne counted 19 in Montezuma NWR (considered a part of the Cayuga Lake Basin) alone. The only surprise among the diurnal raptors (including falcons) was a Mississippi Kite that Paul Rodewald observed flying back forth overhead while Paul walked to his mailbox.

Donna Carter photographed a Common Gallinule at Montezuma NWR on the early date of 6 April. She also had the high count of 45 Whimbrels and 11 Sanderlings at Montezuma NWR. Other shorebird high counts were Dave Nutter's four American Golden-Plovers and Jay McGowan's and Livia Santana's 610 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Montezuma NWR and Janet Akin's 29 Ruddy Turnstones at City Pier on Canandaigua Lake. Several shorebird species, rare in the Region in spring, made appearances in Montezuma NWR. An American Avocet, a Red Knot, a Ruff, and up to eight Stilt Sandpipers lingered long enough for many observers to see them. Additionally, Dave Nutter and Reuben Soltzfus found a Red-necked Phalarope at Montezuma NWR in late May. Alyssa Johnson found 16 Willets on the shore of Seneca Lake at Geneva in early May.

Little Gull was observed on Seneca and Cayuga Lakes in April. Jay McGowan had a high count of seven Iceland Gulls at Stewart Park in early March and later in the month at the Stevenson Road Compost Piles in Tompkins County. Also at the compost piles was a high count of 21 Lesser Black-backed Gulls. A Glaucous Gull lingered late at Seneca Lake State Park, where Tim Lenz found it on 11 May. The count by Dave Nutter of 80 Common Terns on Cayuga Lake was a high count.

Luke Seitz conducted counts of nocturnal migrants from his Ithaca home and produced high counts for Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoos. Dave

and Laurie Nutter heard a Barn Owl while they were camping at Taughannock Falls State Park. Jay McGowan heard a high count of five Barred Owls in the Roy H Park Preserve. Jasdev Imani, Taylor Long, and Matthew Stimas-Mackey found an Eastern Whip-Poor-Will in the Hawthorn Orchard in Ithaca.

The Red-headed Woodpecker that overwintered in Palmer Woods, Ithaca, continued there through 19 March. Observers in the Region found high counts of Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Hairy Woodpeckers, and Northern Flickers. J Gary Kohlenberg found a slightly early Yellow-bellied Flycatcher on 12 May in Tompkins County. Mike Powers found and recorded a White-eyed Vireo at Mark Twain State Park, and other observers were able to photograph the bird over the next three days.

Migrating swallows gathered in the Myers Point-Salt Point area in Tompkins County. These included high counts of Northern Rough-winged Swallows by Scott Haber and Brad Walker and Barn Swallows by Jay McGowan and Livia Santana. Also among the swallows was a first Regional spring record of **Cave Swallow**.

David Nicosia had a high count of 24 Marsh Wrens at Montezuma NWR. Luke Seitz had a high count of 84 nocturnal migrating Veeries in Ithaca. Andrew Schmalfuss found an early Brown Thrasher at Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve on 5 April.

Early arriving warblers were a Prothonotary Warbler at Montezuma NWR on 5 May, Wyatt Westerkamp's Hooded Warbler at Shindagin Hollow State Forest, Ann Mitchell's Prairie Warbler at Roy H Park Preserve on 24 April, and Ann Marie Johnson's Canada Warbler at Shindagin Hollow State Forest on 1 May. Wyatt Westerkamp also had a high count of 8 Louisiana Waterthrushes at Shindagin Hollow. Ian Davies and Sarah Dzielski patiently counted 524 passing Yellow-rumped Warblers at a site in Tompkins County. Other high counts were 15 Prairie Warblers at Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve counted by Andrew Schmalfuss and 18 Canada Warblers at Palmer Woods. Rarities were a Golden-winged Warbler that Steve Kelling photographed in Tompkins County and a well-described Yellow-throated Warbler in Seneca County.

Bluegrass Lane Natural Area yielded high counts for both Vesper Sparrow (19) and Savannah Sparrow (41) found by Larry Chen, Ethan Lai, and Kai Victor. Other high counts were the 45 Swamp Sparrows counted by Jay McGowan and Livia Santana at Dryden Lake and Mike Wasilco's 18 Eastern Towhees at Erwin Wildlife Management Area.

Judy Burrill found an early Eastern Meadowlark in Tompkins County on 3 May. Many observers enjoyed seeing and hearing a Western Meadowlark near Montezuma NWR in April and May.

Winter finches were in short supply except for Pine Siskins. Chris Wood heard an Evening Grosbeak at Roy H Park Preserve and Micah Walker saw one in Steuben County. Ann Mitchell had a Common Redpoll at her feeder in Tompkins County and Stuart Krasnoff heard one along the South Hill Recreation Way, also in Tompkins County. Kevin McGowan found a Red

Crossbill in Tompkins County on 8 April and Jay McGowan found one at Roy H Park Preserve the following day. John Confer had high counts of 80 Pine Siskins and 135 American Goldfinches on his Tompkins County property. Jay McGowan and Livia Santana had one more high count, 40 House Sparrows in Cayuga County.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BLNA – Bluegrass Lane Natural Area, TOMP; **CP** – City Pier, ONTA; **CPA** – Candlewyck P Apartments, TOMP; **CygL** – Cayuga L; **DryL** – Dryden L, TOMP; **ESP** – East Shore P, TOMP; **HO** – Hawthorn Orchard; **LPBP** – Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve, TOMP; **LRB**-Lake Rd Bluff, CAYU; **MR** – Monkey Run, TOMP; **MyPt** – Myers Pt, TOMP; **NEI** – Northeast Ithaca, TOMP; **PW** – Palmer Woods, TOMP; **RHPP** – Roy H P Preserve, TOMP; **SenL** – Seneca L; **SHSF** – Shindagin Hollow State Forest, TOMP; **SLRA** – Seneca Lakefront Recreation Area, ONTA; **SLSP** – Seneca L SP; **SRCP** – Stevenson Rd Compost Piles, TOMP; **StP** – Stewart P, TOMP; **SW** – Sapsucker Woods, TOMP; **TCar** – T Caroline, TOMP; **TDan** – T Danby, TOMP; **TDry** – T Dryden, TOMP; **TFSP** – Taughannock Falls SP; **Tlth** – T Ithaca, TOMP; **TLan** – T Lansing, TOMP; **TOv** – T Ovid, SENE; **TSen** – T Seneca, ONTA; **TTyr** – T Tyre, SENE; **WCMP** – Warren W Clute Memorial P. SCHU.



Cave Swallow, Salt Point Nature Preserve, *Tompkins*, 15 Apr 2018, © Jay McGowan.

WATERFOWL - VULTURES

Snow Goose: max 2,500,000 CygL, T Seneca Falls SENE 12 Mar (DK!, ph), State record high.

Ross's Goose: last MNWR 25 May (JR!), late.

Brant: arr T Sen 14 Apr; max 140 T Lan 22 May; last WCMP 28 May.

Cackling Goose: max 37 SLSP 5 Mar (TLe, ph), high; last 2 Jim Schlug Trail TOMP 31 Mar.

BARNACLE X CACKLING GOOSE: SLSP 5 Mar (TLe, ph).

SNOW X CANADA GOOSE: SLSP 5 Mar (TLe, ph); MNWR 19 Mar (MMi, ph).

Mute Swan: max 4 Seneca Meadows Wetland Preserve SENE 5 May; last MNWR 19 May (BwF), late.

Trumpeter Swan: max 17 Savannah Mucklands SENE (MG), high.

Tundra Swan: max 1350 CygL, Mud Lock CAYU 3 Mar (JBa, CW), high; last MNWR 22 Apr thru (mob), late.

Eurasian Wigeon: 1-2 MNWR 1 Mar thru; Frontenac P CAYU 18 Mar.

Am. Wigeon: max 1442 MNWR 21 Mar (MH), high.

Blue-winged Teal: max 60 MNWR 17 Apr (MwBr), high.

N. Shoveler: max 500 MNWR 7 Apr (YL, JMc), high.

Surf Scoter: arr 7 SenL, TOv 2 Apr; max and last 8 Park Station P CHEM 12 May (BOs, JOs), high.

White-winged Scoter: max 28 LRB 29 Mar; last 9 MyPt 27 May (JBa, CW), late.

Black Scoter: arr 2 TFSP 14 Apr; 2 DryL 14 Apr; last ESP 1 May.

Long-tailed Duck: max 40 StP 15 Apr; last 2 Lodi Pt SENE 22 May.

Bufflehead: max 500 ESP 15 Apr (JGe), high; last 2 T Middlesex YATE 17 May.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 250 Sheldrake SENE 10 Mar; last 2 MyPt 25 May.

Ruddy Duck: max 75 MNWR 22 Apr; last 2 MNWR 17 May.

Red-throated Loon: max 10 DryL 3 Apr; last 2 Holiday Harbour ONTA 30 May (CJ), late.

Com. Loon: max 150 Aurora Boathouse CAYU 22 Apr (TA, TS), high.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 30 MNWR 22 Apr (KBu), high.

Horned Grebe: max 215 CygL, T Lan 1 Apr (JMc, LSa), high; 180 MyPt 1 Apr; last SLSP 21 May.

Red-necked Grebe: max 7 TFSP 1 May; last SLSP 21 May (TLe, ph), late.

EARED GREBE (R3): LRB 18 Mar (JMc!); SenL TOv 15 Apr (Tess!).

AM. WHITE PELICAN (R3): 1-2 MNWR 1 Apr-17 May (mob, ph).

Least Bittern: arr T W Union STEU 22 Apr (JuL, ph), early.

Great Blue Heron: max 125 MNWR 26 May (SB, JMc, BW), high.

Great Egret: arr Liddel Lab Pds TOMP 30 Mar; max 27 MNWR 6 May (DDa), high.

SNOWY EGRET (R3): MNWR 17-29 May (mob, ph).

CATTLE EGRET (R3): MNWR 12 May (BwF, ph).

Green Heron: max 13Tth 14 May (LSe), nocturnal high.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr 2 MyPt 16 Apr; max 23 MNWR 5 May (mob), high.

GLOSSY IBIS (R3): MNWR 15 May (DDo, ph!); MNWR 23 May (MaPo, ph).

Black Vulture: arr City of Ithaca 31 Mar; BLNA 31 Mar.

HAWKS – LARIDS

Osprey: arr 2 Long Pt SP 20 Mar; max 20 CygL Basin 21 Apr (MH), high; 19 MNWR 7Apr (SPa).

MISSISSIPPI KITE: T Enfield TOMP 30 May (PRo!).

Bald Eagle: max 32 MNWR 8 Apr.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr 6 TCar 14 Apr; TDry 14 Apr; max 28 MNWR 28 Apr.

Rough-legged Hawk: last MNWR 30 Apr.

Golden Eagle: last BLNA 11 May.

Virginia Rail: arr MNWR 12 Apr; max 4 MNWR 15 May; 4 Hillview Rd Wetland TOMP 20 May.

Sora: arr MNWR 20 Apr.

Com. Gallinule: arr MNWR 6 Apr (DCa, ph), early; max 20 MNWR 6 May.

Sandhill Crane: max 12 Seneca Meadows Wetland Preserve SENE 5 May.

AM. AVOCET (R3): MNWR 17-19 May (mob, ph).

AM. GOLDEN-PLOVER: (R3): arr 2 MNWR 19 May (JMc!); max 4 MNWR 22 May (DNu!), high; last MNWR 23 May (DDo!).

WILLET (R3): 16 SenL, City of Geneva 3 May (AU!).

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 140 MNWR 6 May; last MNWR May 23.

Upland Sandpiper: arr Lott Farm SENE 23 Apr; max 3 Lott Farm SENE 26 Apr.

**PHOTO GALLERY
SPRING 2018**



Kirtland's Warbler, Central Park, *New York*. Top: 11 May 2018, © Kevin Topping.
Bottom: 12 May 2018, © Matthieu Benoit.



Western Meadowlark, No. Montezuma WMA, *Wayne*, 22 May 2018, © Doug Daniels.



Cave Swallow, Salt Point Nature Preserve, *Tompkins*, 16 Apr 2018, © Jay McGowan.



Mew Gull, Collins Lake Park, *Schenectady*, 15 Apr 2018, © Ted Keyel.



Dark-bellied Brant, Coney Island Creek, *Kings*, 12 Apr 2018, © Doug Gochfeld.



Boreal Owl, Braddock Bay WMA, *Monroe*, 25 Apr 2018, © Dominic Sherony.



Wood Sandpiper, Timber Point Golf Course, *Suffolk*, 16 Apr 2018, © Shaibal S. Mitra.

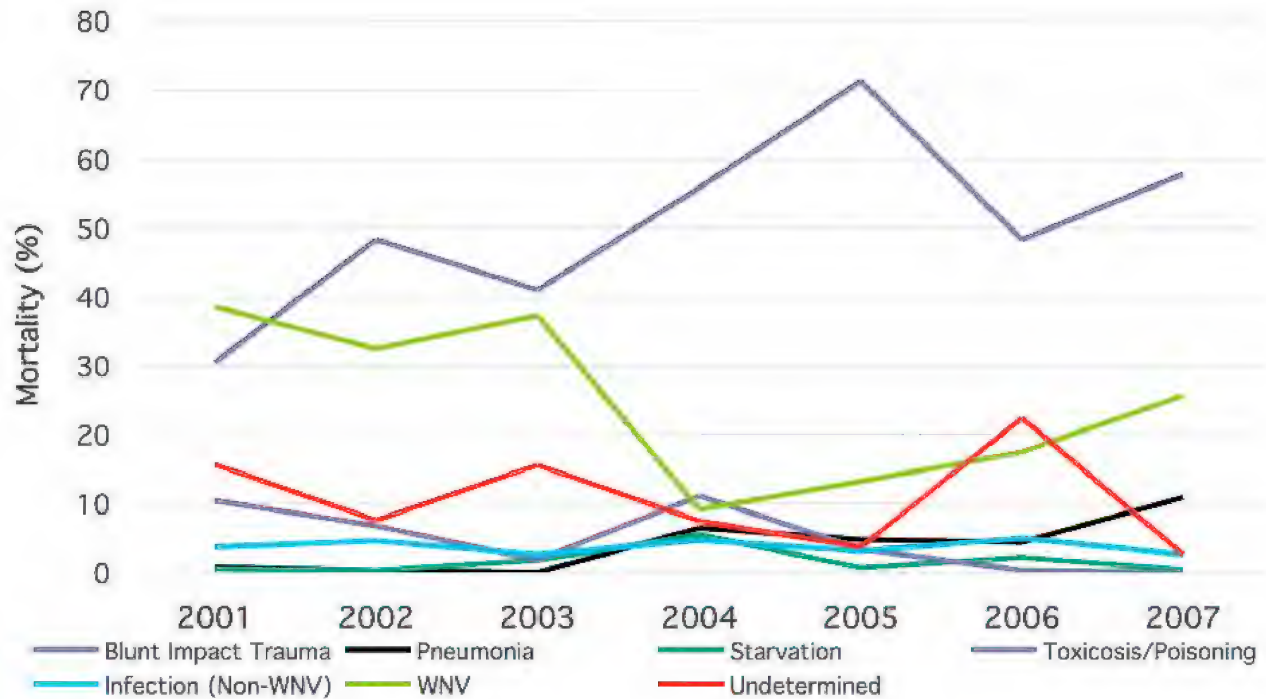


Figure 1. Cause of death trends among birds collected in New York City between 2001 and 2007. See article, pp. 174-178.

Whimbrel: arr 25 CP 19 May (mob, ph); max 45 MNWR 23 May (DCa, ph), high; last 3 MNWR 26 May.

Ruddy Turnstone: arr SLRA 5 May; max 29 CP (JA!), high.

RED KNOT (R3): MNWR 29-30 May (mob, ph!).

RUFF: MNWR 6 May (mob, ph!).

STILT SANDPIPER (R3): MNWR 19 May (mob!); 8 MNWR 20 May (Michael Tetlow!).

Sanderling: 11 MNWR 23 May (DCa, ph!), high; 2 CP 26 May.

Dunlin: arr MNWR 13 Apr; max 300 MNWR 23 May.

White-rumped Sandpiper: arr MNWR 12 May; max 12 MNWR 26 May.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 10 MNWR 9 May; last 2 MNWR 25 May.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 610 MNWR 29 May (JMc, LSA), high.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr & max 6 MNWR 12 May; last 6 MNWR 21 May (CJ), late.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE (R3): MNWR 22-29 May (DNu!, RSt).

Bonaparte's Gull: arr 2 StP 30 Mar; DryL 30 Mar; max 560 LRB 22 Apr; last 2 MyPt 27 May.

Little Gull: SLRA 5 Apr, SLSP 7 Apr; CygL, T Varick TOMP 8 Apr; MyPt 17 Apr.

Iceland Gull: max 7 StP 9-10 Mar (TLe, JMc, LSA); 7 SRCP 25 Mar (JMc), high; last MyPt 11 Apr.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 21 SRCP 25 Mar (JMc), high.

Herring x Lesser Black-backed Gull: StP 2 & 13 Mar (JBa, JMc, CW!).

Glaucous Gull: SLSP 2 Mar; StP 9 & 17 Mar; SLSP 11 May (TLe!), late.

Herring x Glaucous Gull: StP 7 Mar (TLe, ph).

Herring x Great Black-backed Gull: SRCP 3 Mar (JMc, LSA).

Caspian Tern: arr SLRA 30 Mar (JaLu!), early; max 68 MNWR 18 Apr.

Black Tern: arr MNWR 28 Apr; max 37 MNWR 6 May.

Com. Tern: max 80 Frontenac Harbor CAYU 22 May (DNu), high.

Forster's Tern: arr MyPt 2 May; max 2 MyPt 3 May; last Frontenac Harbor CAYU 20 May.

PIGEONS – PARROTS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr PW 1 May; max 7 CPA 14 May (LSe!), high, nocturnal migrants.

Black-billed Cuckoo: max 46 CPA 14 May (LSe!), high, nocturnal migrants.

BARN OWL (R3): TFSP 3 May (DNu!, LNu).

Snowy Owl: max 3 T Fayette SENE 24 Mar; last Finger Lakes Regional Airport 19 Apr.

Barred Owl: max 5 RHPP 27 Apr (JMc), high.

Short-eared Owl: max 5 T Phelps ONTA 17 Mar; last 2 T Lodi SENE 26 Apr.

N. Saw-whet Owl: TDry 19 Mar; TDry 29 Mar; T Italy YATE 29 Mar; T Erin CHEM 26 Apr; T Enfield TOMP 14 May; T Canandaigua ONTA 27 May.

Com. Nighthawk: max 8 MR 23 May; last 4 T Canandaigua ONTA 26 May; T Hector SCHU 26 May; TDry 26 May.

E. WHIP-POOR-WILL (R3): HO 3 May (JL, TLo, MSM).

Red-headed Woodpecker: PW 1-19 Mar; arr T Hector SCHU 11 May; MNWR 14-18 May.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 11 Fall Creek Valley North Natural Area TOMP (CW), high.

Hairy Woodpecker: max 7 SW 13 Apr (GDU, AW), high.

N. Flicker: max 20 Greensprings Natural Cemetery Preserve TOMP 14 Apr (BW), high.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last RHPP 28 May.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr TCar 12 May (JGK), early; max 2 MNWR 17 May.

Acadian Flycatcher: arr SW 16 May; max 3 Cayuta Gulf SCHU 28 May.

N. Shrike: last T Hopewell ONTA 7 Apr.

WHITE-EYED VIREO (R3): Mark Twain SP 12-15 May (MiPo!, recorded, mob, ph).

Philadelphia Vireo: arr Hammond Hill State Forest TOMP 11 May; last Tlth 26 May.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 50 Salt Pt Nature Preserve TOMP 15 Apr (SHa, BW), high.

Barn Swallow: max 900 MyPt 29 Apr (JMc, LSA), high.

CAVE SWALLOW: Salt Pt Nature Preserve TOMP 15-16 Apr (mob!, ph).

Marsh Wren: max 24 MNWR 29 May (DNi), high.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: last SLSP 21 May; SW 21 May.

Veery: max 84 CPA 14 May (LSe!), high, nocturnal migrants.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr 3 CPA 14 May nocturnal migrants; MR 14 May nocturnal migrant; max 9 NEI 22 May, nocturnal

migrants; last 6 NEI 28 May, nocturnal migrants.

Hermit Thrush: T Caton STEU 3 Mar; SLSP 19 Mar; TDry 20 Mar; arr E Ithaca 2 Apr.

Gray Catbird: Ludovico Trail SENE 2 Apr; SW 13 Apr; arr 2 Tlth 25 Apr.

Brown Thrasher: arr LPBP 5 Apr (ASc), early.

Am. Pipit: arr 2 MyPt 3 Mar; max 70 TTyr 27 Apr; YMCA Camp YATE 19 May.

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: T Gorham ONTA 3 Mar; 15 Finger Lakes Regional Airport SENE 21 Apr.

Snow Bunting: max 200 T Genoa CAYU 18 Mar; last 40 T Aurelius CAYU 25 Mar.

Worm-eating Warbler: arr and max 3 LPBP 9 May.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr MR 13 Apr; max 8 SHSF 5 May (WW), high.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER (R3): TCar 11 May (SKe, ph).

Blue-winged Warbler: arr 2 SHSF 28 Apr; max 8 Danby State Forest TOMP 10 May.

“Brewster’s” Warbler: MR 12 May (JBa, LSe!).

“Lawrence’s” Warbler: MR 12 May (JBa, LSe!); Freeville 21 May (HF!).

Prothonotary Warbler: arr MNWR 5 May (mob, ph), early.

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr Willard Town P SENE 5 May; max & last 2 TCar 16 May.

Hooded Warbler: arr SHSF 28 Apr (WW), early; max 5 SHSF 28 May; 5 T Prattsburg STEU 28 May.

Cap May Warbler: max 18 MNWR 12 May; last Cornell University 22 May.

Cerulean Warbler: arr Robert Trent Jones Golf Course TOMP 2 May; BLNA 2 May; max 4 TTyr 21 May.

N. Parula: max 7 CPA 14 May nocturnal migrants; last T Prattsburg STEU 28 May.

Magnolia Warbler: arr SW 18 Apr (EIE!); max 10 LPBP 12 May; 10 HO 15 May.

Bay-breasted Warbler: max 6 NEI 17 May; 6 SLSP 21 May; last StP 24 May; 3 PW 24 May.

Palm Warbler: max 12 SW 8 May; last HO 20 May.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 524 TDan 2 May (ID, SD), high.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (R3): TOv 12 May (Tess!).

Prairie Warbler: arr RHPP 24 Apr (AM), early; max 15 LPBP 4 May (ASc), high.

Canada Warbler: arr SHSF 1 May (AMJ), early; max 18 PW 14 May (mob), high.

Wilson’s Warbler: max 3 MNWR 16 May; HO 17 May; last MNWR 26 May.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

E. Towhee: max 18 Erwin WMA STEU 9 May (MWas), high.

Am. Tree Sparrow: max 70 TDry 3 Mar (JMc, LSA), high; last BLNA 26 Apr.

Chipping Sparrow: TSen 3 Mar (JA!); max 17 TDan 2 May.

Clay-colored Sparrow: 1-2 Finger Lakes National Forest SENE 16-26 May (mob!, ph); Cass P TOMP 24 May (DNu!).

Field Sparrow: arr City of Ithaca 1 Apr; max 11 Greensprings Natural Cemetery Preserve TOMP 24 Apr; 11 TDan 4 May; 11 Erwin WMA STEU 9 May.

Vesper Sparrow: max 19 BLNA 13 Apr (LC, EL, KV), high.

Savannah Sparrow: T Lan 4 Mar; T Covert TOMP 4 Mar; TCar 10 Mar; BLNA 18-24 Mar; max 41 BLNA 20 Apr (LC, EL), high.

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr TOv 5 May; T Lodi SENE 5 May; max 3 TOv 9 May.

Lincoln’s Sparrow: last T Montour SCHU 28 May.

Swamp Sparrow: max 45 DryL 15 Apr (JMc, LSA), high.

White-crowned Sparrow: max 8 TCar 4-8 May; 8 TSen 5-11 May; 8 T Erwin STEU 8 May; last T Corning STEU 21 May.

W. MEADOWLARK: TTyr 15 Apr-26 May (mob, ph).

E. Meadowlark: arr T Covert SENE 3 Mar (JSn!); T Newfield TOMP 3 Mar (JBu), early.

Orchard Oriole: arr 3 MyPt 3 May; Salt Pt TOMP 3 May; max 5 MyPt 26 May.

RED CROSSBILL (R3): TDry 8 Apr (KMc!); RHPP 9 Apr (JMc, recorded).

COM. REDPOLL (R3): Tlth 26 Mar & 17 Apr (AM!, BM), South Hill Recreation Way TOMP 31 Mar (SKr).

Pine Siskin: max 80 TCar 20 Apr (JoCo), high.

Am. Goldfinch: max 135 TCar 6 Apr (JoCo), high.

EVENING GROSBEAK (R3): RHPP 6 Apr (CW!); T Campbell STEU 19 May (MWall!).

House Sparrow: max 40 T Montezuma CAYU 4 Mar (JMc, LSA), high.

REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

No report was received.

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REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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Following a mild February, March came in like the proverbial lion and ready or not, the Region was plunged back into the depths of winter. In Syracuse the average temperature for March was 30.8°F, 3.4° lower than normal. A significant storm on 2 March deposited almost 17" of snow in Syracuse. An additional several inches fell in areas east. Snow continued to pile up and drifting was an issue through the balance of the month. In March the total snowfall in Syracuse was 43.6", which is 25.6" higher than average. The spring season's below average conditions continued in April, and, according to the National Weather Service, was the fourth coldest on record for Syracuse. The average temperature was 39.5°, which is 6.2° lower than normal. However, the total rainfall and snowfall were close to the average for Syracuse for the month. With the onset of May came a dramatic turnaround. In Syracuse the average temperature for May was 62.8°, which is 5.2° higher than normal.

March featured many days with strong northwest winds. At the Derby Hill Hawk Watch, tenacious winds from the wrong direction served to suppress the early flight of raptors. The cold and blustery conditions were difficult to endure for the hawk watchers. On some of the Region's lakes, ice cover persisted through March. On Oneida Lake, ice finally began breaking up during the first week of April. Persistent snow cover in March kept newly arrived blackbirds and other seed-eating songbirds at feeding stations for a prolonged stay. Frugivores and insectivores were forced into being more resourceful, and many were observed feeding on roadsides and along open streams. The cold temperatures in April kept trees from leafing out too early (as they have done too frequently in recent years). This later leaf-out schedule was favorable to warblers and the other neo-tropical insectivores whose traditional arrival dates are timed to the emergence of leaf-eating insect larvae. Early nesting raptors

experienced a challenging season. At Sterling Nature Center, cold temperatures in April were blamed for the nest failures of the resident Bald Eagles and Great Horned Owls. Reportedly, this was the first time the center's Bald Eagles failed to successfully reproduce since they began nesting at the location. A particularly potent wind storm on 4 April brought down two active eagle nests in Oneida County—one in Verona and one in the town of Marcy. The latter nest was thought to contain at least two unhatched eggs. Many other raptor nests were likely destroyed by the same storm.

The movement of Snow Geese over the Region peaked during the last few days of March. Derby Hill hawk counter Anna Stunkel tallied 23,250 Snow Geese passing on 29 March, an otherwise slow day for raptors. There were only three reports of Ross's Goose and one Greater White-fronted Goose for this period. The Brant flight was short in duration, five days, and was concentrated on the northwestern shore of Oneida Lake. On 22 May, Bill Purcell counted 5,180 Brant from his watch site at Phillip's Point in West Monroe. Reports of Trumpeter Swans were more numerous than usual, but primarily came from expected areas where some may be breeding. With few exceptions, migrant waterfowl numbers were unimpressive this season and few rarities were reported. On 4 March, Jim Tarolli observed and photographed a male **Eurasian Wigeon** south of Fulton. The bird lingered only a day, but on 7 April a male was discovered by Kayla Fisk at Peter Scott Swamp in nearby Phoenix. Near the western edge of the Region, David Wheeler and Deborah Dohne found another **Eurasian Wigeon** in an often-flooded field just north of Port Byron on 1 April. While at its wettest, the spot was magnetic for gulls, geese, ducks, and early shorebirds. Shovelers were particularly well represented, with 34 birds on 14 April. 7,400 Northern Pintail counted in the eastern portion of the MNWR complex on 10 March was notable, as were 400 Green-winged Teal observed in Phoenix on 2 April. Also worthy of mention were 1,000 Redheads counted at Onondaga Lake on 6 March. A distant raft of *Aythya* ducks estimated at 1,500 was seen there on 10 March. All three scoter species were found this period, but numbers were unremarkable.

A notable 250 Common Loons passed by Derby Hill on 17 April and 155 were observed at Onondaga Lake on 13 April, where gulls and other waterfowl continued far into the season and long after they had left other spots. Steven Moore saw two **American White Pelicans** fly overhead while walking a nature trail near Skaneateles Lake on 4 May, and Bill Purcell reported a single pelican on Oneida Lake at Constantia on 5 May. Least Bitterns were reported from five different locations, which is a better than average showing for that elusive species. A lone **Snowy Egret** was found at Howland Island on 22 April. Deborah Dohne found two **Snowy Egrets** on Onondaga Lake on 6 May. One remained at the site until at least 23 May. A traveler noticed a **Cattle Egret** at the Syracuse airport on 15 May. It was not seen again. Multiple reports of a single Black-crowned Night-Heron came from Onondaga Lake between 13 April and 8 May.

The final tallies of migrant raptors over Derby Hill reflected the bad March and April flight conditions, with poor counts of most of the early-migrating species. Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, and Merlin were all below the ten-year averages for the site. For the fourth consecutive year, the number of Northern Goshawks passing over Derby was lower than ten individuals. At the same time, record-high counts were achieved for Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon. The final tally of Bald Eagles was 971, 58 higher than the previous record set in 2017. An amazing 93 birds passed on 30 May, a new single-day record for the species. The season's total of 27 Peregrine Falcons was also a record high count for Derby Hill. Four **Black Vultures** were counted at the site between 23 April and 17 May. The season's total of 24,446 Turkey Vultures is just off the record high number set in 2017. A leucistic Turkey Vulture flew over Derby on 23 April. Regarding the vulture, Anna Stunkel wrote "This piebald bird had white flight feathers and what appeared to be an entirely white upside."

On 12 May while leading a bird walk, Joe Brin and Renee Kittleman saw an extremely rare **Swallow-tailed Kite** from the boardwalk area of Derby's trail system. Brin phoned up to the North Lookout where the bird was poorly seen winging south. This comprises the fourth Regional record for this incredible raptor, all from Derby Hill. Broad-winged Hawks made a strong showing with a total of 25,820, higher than the 10-year average. An epic day came on 1 May with 9,008 birds, mostly flying low over the South Lookout. Several long-time observers thought it one of the site's most impressive days ever for the species. A striking dark-morph Broad-wing flew over Derby Hill's South Lookout on 21 May. This ultra-rare version of the species occurs in western North America and is Derby Hill's third record. The hawk watch at Braddock Bay saw what was likely the same bird several hours earlier. A season total of 75 Golden Eagles was also higher than average for the site. 13 Golden Eagles flew over on 31 March. While birding the heron colony at Sterling Nature Center just before sunset on 24 March, Wheeler and Dohne spotted a distant Golden Eagle. The species is seldom seen in the Region away from Derby Hill and Wheeler noted the bird was an immature and soaring on a somewhat more deep dihedral than usual. The next day and upon mentioning this distinctive characteristic to Derby Hill hawk counter Anna Stunkel, she immediately noted having seen the bird during the 10-11AM hour that day, 25 March. American Kestrel numbers were close to average, but Merlin numbers were down. The species is often seen passing just prior to sunset and thus after the conclusion of the count day. Consequently, some may be missed. Merlin has become more common as a winterer and this may be a factor also.

Coot numbers were notably down again this season, which continues the discouraging trend for that species. Reports of Sandhill Crane came from nine locations. A season total of 30 cranes passed over Derby Hill. Spring shorebird tallies are rarely remarkable in our Region, but counts for a few species did

stand out. On 23 May, Mickey Scilingo observed 53 Black-bellied Plovers on Oneida Lake at Constantia. 62 Whimbrel also circled the offshore islands before flying west. Matt Voelker found two birds at Sylvan Beach. Whimbrel flights are expected in May along Oneida Lake's north shore. On 22 May Anna Stunkel reported a single flock of 52 passing over Derby Hill, very unusual for the site. David Wheeler found two on the rocky spit at the Onondaga Lake marina. Excellent views were had by many as the birds lingered all day, eventually joined for several hours by a Snowy Egret. While looking at two Whimbrel found previously at Fair Haven on 22 May, Wheeler, Dohne, and John Germain spotted 21 breeding-plumaged Red Knots flying together. The birds wheeled about the breakwall area for several minutes without landing and were seen later in the day by Mike Gullo after having been thought to be gone. A male **Ruff** in transitional plumage was found in the flooded Port Byron wetland on 10 April by Gregg Dashnau. The rarity remained for at least 10 days and was seen and photographed by many birders. On 12 April a female joined the male but was seen only one day. As noted in our report for spring 2013, Ruff were found in the Region throughout the 1960s, but became increasingly rare in subsequent decades. A breeding-plumage female Red-necked Phalarope was a nice find for Kevin McGann at the wetlands in Volney.

This spring gull numbers and species diversity were best at Phoenix and Onondaga Lake. Deborah Dohne observed and photographed a **Little Gull** at Fair Haven on 17 May. It has occurred in the Region in spring at least 11 times prior. David Wheeler kept track of an influx of Lesser Black-backed Gulls starting in mid-April and found a maximum of 14 at Onondaga Lake on 25 April. Wheeler thought there may have been as many as 20 birds, including two first-cycle birds. Unlike other gull species where first-year birds are common; the plumage is rarely seen anywhere in upstate NY (especially in winter). Wheeler surmises the Onondaga Lake birds to be northbound from their wintering grounds, likely settling in for the summer wherever immature large gulls are gathering and wintering farther north as they age. A mixture of adults and immatures was represented during the Onondaga Lake influx and by mid-May many had departed. According to Wildlife Rehabilitator Jean Soprano, on 5 May a Lesser Black-backed Gull expired after becoming entangled in fishing line in Mattydale. Unfortunately, fishing tackle, especially treble-hook lures resembling natural food, often entangle gulls that believe they have found a tasty minnow. Birders are encouraged to carry wire cutters to snip the barb off hooks if they can reach the bird and to pick up fishing line, hooks, and lures anywhere they may find them. Cutting the barb off is the best way to make them safe. An early Black Tern was seen at the Utica Marsh on 27 April.

Cuckoo sightings seemed to be up this spring. A maximum of seven Black-billed Cuckoos was reported at Green Lakes State Park on 16 May. In previous reports, we've mentioned Utica's resident Peregrine Falcon's penchant for hunting cuckoos of both species. Before the end of May, the male falcon had brought at least 10 cuckoos, mostly Black-billed, back to his nest. The nest site

is well covered by cameras and efforts to record the Peregrines' prey species have produced a fascinating wealth of data and insight into their daily activities during nesting season. Difficult to observe phenomenon, such as night-hunting, has been recorded. Reports of Eastern Screech Owls came from less than ten locations. Snowy Owls were reported from six locations, the last being the State Fair Grounds in Syracuse on 20 April. Two Short-eared Owls were observed in Durhamville between 7 and 9 April. The last one was seen on 22 April near Onondaga Lake, an unusual location. This period there were single reports of Long-eared Owl and Northern Saw-whet Owl. Both were in March and likely involved migrants. The movement of Common Nighthawks through the Region seemed poor compared with previous years. A maximum count of 44 Common Nighthawks passed over Derby Hill on 20 May. Reduced coverage at dusk may be responsible at least in part.

Reports of Red-headed Woodpecker emanated only from the species' strongholds along the Lake Ontario Shoreline and Oneida Lake, and in those areas they were spotted consistently. The numbers of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, specifically in areas east of Oneida Lake, seemed to have rebounded nicely following the previous year's unexplained decline. Merlins have again chosen to nest in a stand of White Pines adjacent to Mickey Scilingo's Constantia property. Scilingo located the nest tree on 3 May. It is unknown if Syracuse's resident pair of Peregrine Falcons tried to breed this season. In 2017, following the relocation of their nest box to another site on the same host building, the pair adopted an unprepared site on another building. Last year they failed to breed successfully. Regarding this season, no one could confirm if the pair even made a nesting attempt. The adult birds have been observed near the previous year's nest, but no young were seen. Utica's resident pair ran into some difficulty in the early part of the breeding season. The female falcon laid her first egg on 1 April and had completed a full clutch of four eggs approximately one week later. The early days of incubation were plagued with interruptions of 20, 30, and even 40 minutes in duration. The adults were repeatedly being drawn off the nest by intruders, presumably young adult Peregrines that recently arrived from the south and were seeking a territory. Given that temperatures in early April were often hovering around the freezing point, nest monitors in Utica thought it likely that the first three eggs laid, which were inconsistently incubated, would be unlikely to hatch. Much to everyone's surprise, a total of three eggs ultimately hatched. Possibly the ambient heat from the host building, largely of brick and stone construction, and the nest's southern alignment are factors that kept the eggs viable. The first two falcon eggs hatched on 9 May.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher arrived in the Region on 20 May, but only two reports of the species were received. On 17 May, an Acadian Flycatcher arrived at its traditional breeding grounds at Whisky Hollow; six days later a pair was confirmed at the site. There were a handful of Northern Shrike sightings in March. The last shrike of the season occurred at the South Lookout at Derby Hill on 20 April. Reports of Philadelphia Vireos came from ten locations. Blue

Jay migration was a small fraction of what it had been the previous year. The highest tallies came from the Lake Ontario shoreline and primarily from Derby Hill. A maximum count of 512 Blue Jays passed over Derby Hill on 10 May. Although the number of individuals encountered was low, reports of Fish Crow were more widespread than usual. Reports of Marsh Wren also seemed to be more widespread and there were some respectable high counts. It seemed kinglet migration was less noticeable than usual at least in some parts of the Region. Interestingly, a few observers reported seeing both species (particularly Golden-crowned Kinglets) foraging on the ground due to the unseasonably cold temps. April's low temperatures also caused a huge concentration of Tree Swallows to form at the Oswego River dam in Phoenix. Gregg Dashnau estimated 1750 on 14 April while 1200 were estimated the next day by Bill Purcell at Phillips Point on Oneida Lake. The numbers of migrant woodland thrushes were relatively low. There were only four reports of single Gray-cheeked Thrushes.

One Lapland Longspur was spotted in Fabius on 11 March. The last 40 Snow Buntings departed the Region on 23 March. Warbler migration was underwhelming with a few notable exceptions. There were three reports of single Golden-winged Warblers. Prothonotary Warblers were observed near Howland Island and in West Monroe. Are they still nesting at Toad Harbor? Continuing a recent trend, very good numbers of Tennessee Warblers were reported across the Region. A maximum number of 20 was tallied at Sunset Bay Park on 20 May. 18 Tennessee Warblers were found at Great Bear Recreation Area on 21 May. On 10 May, six Cerulean Warblers were counted at Howland Island, which continues to be the Region's stronghold for the species. Ceruleans also continue in the Toad Harbor/Three-Mile Bay area of Oneida Lake but are generally scarce throughout the Region. Maximum numbers for Yellow-rumped and Black-throated Green Warblers were quite low this period. If a large flight of Yellow-rumps passed Derby Hill this year it was missed. Matt Brown found an extremely rare, passage-migrant **Connecticut Warbler** at his home north of Pulaski on 19 May. Kevin McGann found an overshoot **Kentucky Warbler** at Fair Haven amidst a nice warbler concentration on 23 May.

Clay-colored Sparrow arrived at Sunset Bay Park on 3 May. Three were singing on their traditional breeding grounds at Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary on 25 May. Vesper Sparrow seemed to experience a slight resurgence this spring and was reported from 16 areas. Fox Sparrows seemed to shorten their stay in the Region, with a good tally of 12 at Three Rivers WMA on 17 April. Reports of Lincoln's Sparrows were lacking this spring and in many areas were missed completely. A maximum number of 22 Eastern Meadowlarks over Derby Hill on 3 April is worthy of note, as was 230 Rusty Blackbirds counted in Pennellville the same day. Deborah Dohne found a possible breeding pair of Orchard Orioles in excellent habitat near Derby Hill. The species is rarely encountered in the northern part of the Region. Did they nest successfully, and will they be back next year? A report of eight Orchard Orioles at Ditch Bank Road on 26 May was notable. Along with Green Lakes State Park, Ditch Bank Rd. continues to be a

stronghold for the species in the Region. Several observers reported that recently arrived Baltimore Orioles were resorting to suet feeders and, at least in one case, a conventional seed feeder. This most likely points to a lack of the orioles' preferred foods being available in the wild in the first weeks of May. Winter finches were uncommon this period. On 11 April a single Common Redpoll was reported at a bird feeder in Camillus. Red Crossbills were found in northern Oneida and Herkimer County areas of the lower Adirondacks and its foothills, with a single report of three White-winged Crossbills on 31 March. One or both species are likely breeding in the area, but its expansiveness and remoteness in the Region means it is not birded on a regular basis.

This season a total of 248 species was reported, which is two above the recent 10-year average for the Region. There were also three hybrids reported. Highlights of the season included: Greater White-fronted Goose, Ross's Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, **Am. White Pelican, Snowy Egret Cattle Egret, Black Vulture, SWALLOW-TAILED KITE**, Whimbrel, Ruddy Turnstone, **Red Knot, RUFF, Red-necked Phalarope, Little Gull, Snowy Owl, Prothonotary Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, and Connecticut Warbler.**

Spring 2018 produced 84,130 eBird records for Region 5, and these were processed by Swan Hummingbird v 4.02. Reports were contributed by 449 people.

DERBY HILL HAWK MIGRATION TOTALS

Species	Arrival	Max	Max Date	Total
Black Vulture	23 Apr	1	X	4
Turkey Vulture	27 Feb	3582	2 Apr	24,446
Osprey	31 Mar	63	1 May	367
Swallow-tailed Kite	12 May	1	12 May	1
Bald Eagle	19 Feb	93	30 May	971
No. Harrier	7 Mar	46	22 Apr	393
Sharp-shinned Hawk	21 Feb	197	1 May	2047
Cooper's Hawk	28 Feb	24	27 Mar	177
No. Goshawk	31 Mar	1	X	5
Red-shouldered Hawk	28 Feb	69	31 Mar	335
Broad-winged Hawk	18 Apr	9008	1 May	25,820
Red-tailed Hawk	19 Feb	246	21 Apr	2193
Rough-legged Hawk	19 Feb	10	27 Mar	73
Golden Eagle	28 Feb	13	31 Mar	75
Am. Kestrel	28 Feb	97	23 Apr	343
Merlin	27 Feb	4	22 Apr	36
Peregrine Falcon	20 Mar	3	25 Mar, 27 Apr	27
Total, inc. unid.				57,343

CONTRIBUTORS

Dennis Anderson (DA), Jessie Barry (JBa), Sue Boettger, Carla Bregman, Joseph Brin (JB), Matthew Brown (MB), Ken & Rose Burdick (KRB), Andrea Burke (ABu), Jerry Case (JC), David Cesari, Richard Cohen, Karl Curtis, Jim D'Angelo (JD), Gregg Dashnau (GD), Rose DeNeve, Deborah Dohne (DD), Kayla Fisk (KF), Elizabeth Frascatore, John Germain (JG), Bill Gruenbaum, Mike Gullo (MG), Barbara & Larry Hall (BLH), Gene Huggins, Timothy Johnston, Alison Koczek (AK), Joshua LaCelle (JaL), Chris Lajewski, Gary Lee (GL), Jason Lusier (JL), Mark Magistro (MaM), Mary Magistro (MM), Gary Meyers, Kevin McGann (KM), Jay McGowan (JM), Steven Moore (SM), David Nash (DN), Scott Peterson (SP), Matt Perry (MP), Bill Purcell (BP), Paul Richardson, Margaret Rusk, Linda Salter (LS), Livia Santana (LSa), Stephanie Schmidt, Thomas Schmidt (TSc), Steve Schwab (SS), Mickey Scilingo (MS), Tony Shrimpton (TS), Gerald Smith, Jean Soprano (JS), Chris Spagnoli (CS), Anna Stunkel (AS), Jim Tarolli (JTa), Judy Thurber, Andrew Van Norstrand (AVN), Matt Voelker (MV), Drew Weber (DWe), David Wheeler (DW), Brian White, Robert G. Williams III (RW), Chris Wood, Judy Wright.

ABBREVIATIONS

ADK – Adirondacks, n. HERK; **BLNC** – Beaver L Nature Center, Baldwinsville; **Brew** – Oneida L at Brewerton; **Bville** – Baldwinsville; **CM** – Clay Marsh, Clay; **Const** – Oneida L at Constantia; **DB** – Ditch Bank Rd & vicinity, T Sullivan/Lenox; **DH** – Derby Hill, T Mexico; **Dolge** – Dolgeville, HERK; **FH** – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay, and vicinity; **GB** – Great Bear Rec Area, Fulton; **GLSP** – Green Lakes SP, Fayetteville; **LOS** – Lake Ontario Shoreline, **MNWR** east – Montezuma NWR, CAYU; **OF** – Old Forge; **OneiL** – Oneida L; **OnonL** – Onondaga L; **OswH** – Oswego Harbor; **PPt** – Oneida L at Phillips Pt, W Monroe; **SBP** – Sunset Bay P, Scriba; **SFNS** – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; **SH** – Southern Highlands of Onondaga & Madison Co.; **Skan** – Skaneateles; **SNC** – Sterling Nature Center, Sterling; **SP** – Sandy Pd and vicinity; **SSSP** – Selkirk Shores SP; **SVB** – Sylvan & Verona Beach; **Syr** – Syracuse; **TR** – Three Rivers WMA, Lysander; **UM** – Utica Marsh; **WH** – Whiskey Hollow; **WP** – Woodman Pd, Hamilton.

WATERFOWL - HERONS

Greater White-fronted Goose: Tully 10, 24 Mar (GH), only report.

Snow Goose: max 23250 DH 29 Mar (AS); 17320 DH 30 Mar (BP); counts relatively low away from DH.

Ross's Goose: DH 29 Mar (DW, ph); Dolge 2 Apr (BLH); HI 19 May; only reports.

Brant: arr 91 SBP 8 May; max 5180 PPt 22 May (BP); last PPt 23 May; few reports.

Cackling Goose: arr 5 Port Byron 22 Mar (DD, ph); max 9 Port Byron 28 Feb (DD, ph); DH 29 Mar; TR 9 Apr; only reports.

Canada Goose: 1500 DH 31 Mar; max 1600 Cato 7 Apr.

Mute Swan: max 56 FH 17 Apr.

Trumpeter Swan: 3 Brew 29 Apr; max 7 Port Byron 22 Apr.

Tundra Swan: max 4 FH 18 Mar; 2 DH 20 Mar; last 2 SP 23 Mar; two other reports.

Trumpeter/Tundra Swan: 2 TR 22 Apr.
Wood Duck: max 36 Port Byron 4 Mar; 26 Earlville 5 Apr; 22 HI 13 May.
Gadwall: 12 Brew 1 Mar; max 30 Syr; 13 TR 13 Apr.
EURASIAN WIGEON (R5): Fulton 4 – 5 Mar (JT, mob, ph); Port Byron 1 Apr (DW, DD, ph); Phoenix 7 – 8 Apr (KF); Const 5 May (DD).
Am. Wigeon: 41 FH 5 Mar; max 70 MNWR east 10 Mar; last Volney 9 May.
Am. Black Duck: max 34 MNWR east 10 Mar.
Mallard: max 550 Fulton 5 Mar.
Am. Black Duck X Mallard: max 3 MNWR east 10 Mar; 3 additional reports of singles.
Blue-winged Teal: arr 2 WP 25 Mar; 13 SP 15 Apr; 13 CM 18 Apr; max 15 UM 21 Apr.
N. Shoveler: max 34 Port Byron 14 Apr, good number; 16 Phoenix 21 Apr; last MNWR east 13 May.
N. Pintail: max 7400 MNWR east 10 Mar (CW, JBa), good number; 500 Phoenix 2 Apr; last MNWR east 2 May.
Green-winged Teal: max 400 Phoenix 2 Apr, good number; 118 DB 14 Apr; last Volney 21 May.
Canvasback: max 40 Brew 5 Mar; last 14 HI 21 Apr; few reports.
Redhead: 200 Brew 5 Mar; max 1000 OnonL 6 Mar; last 7 MNWR east 28 May.
Ring-necked Duck: 260 Brew 1 Mar; max 270 FH 5 Mar; last 4 WP 8 May.
Greater Scaup: 260 FH 5 Mar; max 360 Brew 20 Mar; last 4 PPt 19 May.
Lesser Scaup: max 500 OnonL 8 Apr & 500 PPt 13 Apr; last WP 29 May, late.
Greater/Lesser Scaup: 1600 OnonL 10 Mar; max 2200 PPt 10 Apr.
Surf Scoter: max 22 PPt 2 May (BP); 7 OnonL 22 May; last OnonL 24 May.
White-winged Scoter: 43 OswH 5 Mar; max 85 Const 24 May; last OnonL & Const 24 May.
Black Scoter: max 3 PPt 9 May, only report.
Long-tailed Duck: 303 PPt 19 Apr; max 800 Sterling 28 Apr; last FH 22 May.
Bufflehead: max 87 SNC 10 Apr; 80 SSSP 29 Apr; last 2 DH 18 May.
Com. Goldeneye: max 260 Brew 1 Mar; 184 FH 5 Mar; last PPt 15 May.
Hooded Merganser: 26 Fulton 5 Mar; max 33 Brew 20 Mar.
Com. Merganser: max 1000 OnonL 1 – 29 Mar; 600 Brew 5 Mar.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 125 DH 20 Apr; 96 SNC 3 May; last SNC 28 May.
Ruddy Duck: 5 SVB 31 Mar; 8 MNWR east 5 May; last 3 OnonL 22 May; low counts.

Ring-necked Pheasant: 2 Oriskany 23 Apr; few reports; 2 SP 2 – 5 May.
Ruffed Grouse: max 4 SH 14 May; most reports from SH.
Wild Turkey: max 56 Pompey 9 Mar; 31 Sterling 11 Mar; 30 Remsen 26 Mar.
Red-throated Loon: 2 OnonL 13 Apr; 2 DH 18 Apr; last Hamilton 15 May; singles at five other locs.
Com. Loon: 155 OnonL 13 Apr (DW), good number; max 250 DH 17 Apr (AS), great number; 66 PPt 18 Apr.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 7 WP 19 Apr; 6 MNWR east 24 Apr.
Horned Grebe: max 20 OnonL 14 Apr; max 6 Brew 12 Apr; last 2 TR 8 May.
Red-necked Grebe: max 7 OnonL 28 Mar; 5 PPt 21 Apr; last WP & PPt 8 May.
Double-crested Cormorant: 500 OnonL 13 Apr; max 660 PPt 5 May.
AM. WHITE PELICAN (R5): Const 5 May (BP, mob, ph); 2 Skan 4 May, (SM); 12th Reg spring rec.
Am. Bittern: arr Brew Phoenix 10 Apr; max 3 CM 21 Apr & 3 Phoenix 6 May & 3 DH 19 May.
Least Bittern: arr DeWitt 9 May; Manheim 14 May; West Monroe 18 – 21 May; UM 27 May; TR 28 May; only reports.
Great Blue Heron: 36 DH 31 Mar; max 54 Port Byron 29 Mar (KB), rookery; 35 GSC 16 May, rookery; 50 SNC 25 May, rookery.
Great Egret: arr DH 30 Mar; max 10 UM 13 Apr, good number for spring & 10 MNWR east 28 May.
SNOWY EGRET (R5): HI 22 Apr (mob); max 2 OnonL 5 – 6 May (DD, AK, mob, ph), single remains thru 23 May; 19th Reg spring rec.
CATTLE EGRET (5): Syr Airport 15 May (AVN).
Green Heron: arr SFNS 16 Apr, early; max 6 DH 18 May.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: OnonL 13 Apr – 8 May, only report.

VULTURES - LARIDS

BLACK VULTURE (R5): max 2 Manlius 3 – 13 Mar, wintered; Jamesville 20 Apr; DH 23 Apr; DH 27 Apr; DH 1 May; last DH 17 May.
Turkey Vulture: max 3582 DH 2 Apr; 2275 DH 11 Apr; DH 23 Apr (DW, AS, ph), leucistic individual, *intro*.
Osprey: arr OnonL 28 Mar; 34 DH 27 Apr; max 63 DH 1 May.
SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: DH 12 May (JB!, mob), 4th Reg rec, *intro*.

N. Harrier: 39 DH 21 Apr; max 46 DH 22 Apr.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 186 DH 22 Apr; max 197 DH 1 May.
Cooper's Hawk: 23 DH 26 Mar; max 24 DH 27 Mar.
N. Goshawk: 7 singles over DH 31 Mar – 2 May; reports from three other locs.
Bald Eagle: 57 DH 28 May; max 93 DH 30 May, site record.
Red-shouldered Hawk: 45 DH 26 Mar; max 69 DH 31 Mar.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr 7 DH 18 Apr; max 9008 DH 1 May; 3085 DH 2 May; dark-morph 21 May (AS).
Red-tailed Hawk: 189 DH 31 Mar; max 246 DH 21 Apr.
Rough-legged Hawk: 9 DH 26 Mar; max 10 DH 27 Mar; last DH 9 May.
Golden Eagle: max 13 DH 31 Mar; 11 DH 23 Apr; last DH 20 May; good numbers over DH; SNC 24 Mar (DW, DD), seldom seen away from DH, *intro*.
Virginia Rail: arr DeWitt 14 Apr; max 9 Warren 7 May.
Sora: arr SP 15 Apr; max 3 DeWitt 6 May & 3 Verona 9 May.
Com. Gallinule: arr 2 TR 22 Apr; max 10 MNWR east 5 May; 8 Volney 8 May.
Am. Coot: max 30 Skan 25 Mar – 8 Apr; 7 MNWR east 5 May; few reports.
Sandhill Crane: max 4 DH 31 Mar & 4 DH 21 Apr; 3 DH 10 Apr; 2 MNWR east 28 May; reports from 7 other locs.
Black-bellied Plover: arr 11 Ppt 22 May; max 53 Const 23 May (MS), good number; last 18 Const 26 May.
Semipalmated Plover: arr Port Byron 12 Apr; max 6 Volney 19 May; last Volney 28 May.
Killdeer: first Elbridge 3 Mar; max 17 Kirkville 12 Apr.
Spotted Sandpiper: arr West Eaton 15 Apr; max 12 OnonL 5 – 7 May; 8 DB 8 May.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr Fairfield 25 Apr; max 5 DH 9 May; 4 Tully 13 May.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr Port Byron 1 Apr; 28 Port Byron 10 Apr; 26 Fulton 27 Apr; last Fulton 27 May.
Lesser Yellowlegs: 13 Port Byron 21 Apr; max 20 MNWR east 5 May; last 4 Richfield Springs 18 May.
Upland Sandpiper: arr SNC 21 Apr; Fulton 27 Apr – 21 May; Poland 18 May; Verona 29 May; only reports.
Whimbrel: arr 2 OnonL 20 May (DW, mob, ph); 52 DH 22 May (AS); max 62 Const 23

May (MS); last 3 Const 24 May, great numbers.
Ruddy Turnstone: max 4 Const 24 May (KM, mob), only report.
Red Knot: arr & max 21 FH 22 May (DW, DD, JG, ph); 15 FH 22 May (MG), good number; last Const 23 May (DW).
RUFF: Port Byron 10 – 20 Apr (GD, mob, ph); max 2 Port Byron 12 Apr, *intro*.
Sanderling: 2 FH 19 May (DW, DD), only report.
Dunlin: arr Port Byron 7 Apr; max 52 OnonL 22 May; 38 Const 23 May; last 3 Const 26 May.
Least Sandpiper: arr Dolge 4 May; 21 OnonL 14 May; max 26 Fulton 21 May; last Fulton 28 May.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 5 Bridgeport 20 Apr; last 3 Cedarville 16 May; reports from 2 other locs.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr & max 15 DB 8 May; 12 FH 23 May; last 3 Const 26 May.
Short-billed Dowitcher: OnonL 5 May (AK), only report.
Short-billed/Long-billed Dowitcher: FH 21 May.
Wilson's Snipe: arr TR 28 Mar; max 22 Port Byron 22 Apr; 19 DB 24 Apr.
Am. Woodcock: max 9 TR 2 Apr; 6 Fayetteville 27 Apr.
Red-necked Phalarope: f Volney 21 May (KM, mob, ph).
Bonaparte's Gull: arr 7 DH 31 Mar; 56 OneiL 26 Apr; max 165 Ppt 20 Apr.
LITTLE GULL (R5): FH 17 May (DD, ph), 12th Reg spring rec.
Ring-billed Gull: 710 Phoenix 5 Apr; max 800 OnonL 9 Apr.
Herring Gull: 250 SBP 13 Apr; max 700 OnonL 25 Apr.
Iceland Gull: max 2 OnonL 9 Apr – 6 May; last SBP 12 May; singles at 2 other locs.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 3 Jamesville 15 Apr; max 14 OnonL 25 Apr (DW), great number; Mattydale 5 May (JS), expired after becoming tangled in fishing line; last OnonL 14 May.
Great Black-backed Gull: max 81 OnonL 5 Mar; 50 Const 5 May.
Caspian Tern: arr OswH 31 Mar; max 175 OnonL 20 Apr; 107 FH 22 May.
Black Tern: arr UM 27 Apr (MP), early; max 3 FH 21 May & 3 Const 24 May.
Com. Tern: arr 2 OnonL 13 Apr; 32 FH 19 May; max 100 Const 23 – 24 May.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Rock Pigeon: max 80 OswH 9 Apr.
Mourning Dove: max 88 Dolge 8 Mar.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr OnonL 10 May; max 3 HI 23 May; 2 Fayetteville 28 May.
Black-billed Cuckoo: arr DeWitt 6 May; max 7 GLSP 16 May; 5 SFNS 21 May.
E. Screech-Owl: 4 Bville 7 Apr (JS), tree fell, nestlings killed; Phoenix 1 May (JS), killed, vehicle collision; singles only 7 locs.
Great Horned Owl: SNC 24 Mar (JD), nest in heron rookery fails; 2 SNC 10 Apr – 25 May; max 3 Canastota 5 May; 2 Hamilton 16 May; Syr 27 May (JS), killed, wire entanglement.
Snowy Owl: max 2 Syr 5 Mar – 12 Apr; last Syr 19 Apr; rep 5 other locs.
Barred Owl: 2 SNC 24 Mar; 2 HI 21 Apr; max 3 TR 22 Apr; many reports.
Long-eared Owl: TR 30 Mar, only report.
Short-eared Owl: max 2 Durhamville 7 – 9 Apr; DeWitt 20 Apr; last OnonL 22 Apr.
N. Saw-whet Owl: Wilmurt 3 Mar, only report.
Com. Nighthawk: arr Jamesville 5 May; max 44 Mexico 20 May (AS); 7 Cazenovia 23 May.
E. Whip-poor-will: arr 2 Salisbury 9 May & 2 Const 9 May; 2 Verona 19 May; few reports.
Chimney Swift: arr 3 Syr 15 Apr; max 124 Poland 22 May.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Syr 3 May; max 5 DH 17 May & 5 SP 25 May; 42 banded at Stillwater Reservoir, ADK 27 May (GL).
Belted Kingfisher: max 4 various loc.
Red-headed Woodpecker: max 3 DH 9 May & 3FH 24 May; most reports from OneiL and LOS.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 10 Fayetteville 21 Apr.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr Elbridge 15 Mar; 9 Syr 13 Apr; max 10 SBP 14 Apr.
Downy Woodpecker: max 10 SFNS 2 May.
Hairy Woodpecker: max 4 Pompey 10 Mar & 4 SFNS 2 May & 4 Dolge 29 May.
N. Flicker: max 200 DH 23 Apr (JT); 174 DH 24 Apr.
Pileated Woodpecker: max 3 Syr 26 Mar & 3 SNC 24 Apr & 3 GLSP 6 May & 3 TR 12 May.
Am. Kestrel: max 97 DH 23 Apr; 42 DH 1 May.
Merlin: 3 DH 26, 27, Mar, 12, 20 Apr; max 4 DH 22 Apr; 2 Const 3 May (MS), nesting.
Peregrine Falcon: 3 DH 25 Mar & 3 DH 27 Apr; max 4 Utica 6 Apr, resident pr & 2 intruders; three eggs hatch in Utica nest in May; *intro.*

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Kirkville 18 May; DB 21 May; SFNS 27 May; Syr 29 May.
E. Wood-Pewee: arr Waterville, OnonL, West Monroe 12 May; max 5 SBP 17 May & 5 Syr 19 May & 5 SFNS 23 – 24 May & 5 WH 26 May.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr 2 SBP 20 May; Syr 25 May; only reports.
Acadian Flycatcher: arr WH 17 May; Minetto 22 May; max 2 WH 23 May.
Alder Flycatcher: arr Otisco Lake 12 May; max 6 GLSP 24 May.
Willow Flycatcher: arr Volney 10 May; max 10 DeWitt 15 May; 7 Tully 27 May.
Least Flycatcher: arr TR 1 May; max 8 OnonL 5 May; 6 Tully 13 May.
E. Phoebe: arr SFNS 27 Mar; max 30 WP 20 Apr; 12 SP 21 Apr.
Great Crested Flycatcher: arr Fayetteville, TR, BLNC, Const, SBP 3 May; max 8 MNWR east 13 May; 7 CM 19 May.
E. Kingbird: arr DH 23 Apr; max 6 WP 11 May; 5 DB 23 May.
N. Shrike: SNC 1 Mar; Manlius 1 Mar; Fabius 11 Mar; TR 19 Mar – 14 Apr; DB 25 Mar; last DH 20 Apr.
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr Memphis 3 May; 4 Skan 13 May; max 8 SBP 16 May.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr Syr 23 Apr; max 8 Williamstown 3 May; 4 Lake Julia 13 May; 4 SH 1-21 May.
Warbling Vireo: arr Cicero 30 Apr; max 20 OnonL 5 May; 12 WP 9 May.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr DB 9 May; max 2 FH 16 May; singles at 8 other locs.
Red-eyed Vireo: arr Jamesville, SH 5 May; 9 SH 21 May; max 15 OF 31 May.
Blue Jay: 450 DH 9 May; max 512 DH 10 May; 251 DH 23 May.
Am. Crow: max 1206 DH 26 Mar.
Fish Crow: max 5 OnonL 25 Mar; 2 Bville 9 Mar – 11 Apr; 2 BLNC 2 Apr; 3 Phoenix 8 Apr; 4 Cicero 12 Apr; 2 TR 4 May.
Com. Raven: max 6 DH 23 Apr; 5 Madison 12 May.
Horned Lark: max 175 Otisco Lake 17 Mar; 60 DH 29 Mar; last 2 Waterville 20 May.
Purple Martin: arr 3 Const 13 Apr; max 25 MNWR east 5 May; 20 FH 21 May; 20 Const 24 – 26 May.
Tree Swallow: arr Mexico 27 Mar; max 1750 Phoenix 14 Apr; 1200 Ppt 15 Apr; high nums weather related, *intro.*
N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr 14 Apr; max 75 SSSP 29 Apr.

Bank Swallow: arr Phoenix 14 Apr; max 30 Fulton 13 May.

Cliff Swallow: arr Syr 15 Apr; 10 Oswego 19 May; 6 West Monroe 17 May; max 15 Cicero 19 May.

Barn Swallow: arr Phoenix 12 Apr; 55 Phoenix 14 Apr; max 60 UM 26 Apr.

Black-capped Chickadee: 25 Rome 6 Mar; max 28 Eagle Bay, ADK 18 Apr; 25 SFNS 2 May; 25 GLSP 6 May.

Tufted Titmouse: max 15 SFNS 2 May; 10 GLSP 6 May.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 5 Noyes Sanctuary 25 Mar & 5 BLNC 9 May.

White-breasted Nuthatch: max 11 Dolge 24 Apr; 10 SFNS 2 May.

Brown Creeper: 6 Williamstown 3 May; max 10 VBSP 6 May.

Carolina Wren: max 4 Syr 27 May; most reports from greater Syr.

House Wren: arr Marcellus & DH 24 Apr; 8 SBP 13 May; max 10 Fayetteville 15 May.

Winter Wren: 3 Baltimore Woods Nature Center 18 Apr; max 4 SFNS 22 – 23 Apr; 3 TR 5 May.

Marsh Wren: arr DeWitt 5 May; 3 Warren 7 – 17 May; 7 CM 19 May; 3 TR 25 May; max 8 MNWR east 28 May.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr TR 22 Apr; max 12 MNWR east 13 May; 6 OnonL 12 May; 6 CM 16 May; 6 SBP 16 May.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: 27 SH 21 Apr; max 30 Clark Reservation SP 22 Apr.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Poolville, WP, SFNS, Waterville, Manlius, 2 Jamesville 14 Apr; max 18 SH 21 Apr & 18 SP 27 Apr; 16 SNC 27 Apr.

E. Bluebird: 10 Marcellus 24 Mar; max 65 DH 22 May; 43 DH 27 May.

Veery: arr SP 2 May; 6 SBP 9 – 15 May; 6 MNWR east 13 May; max 7 Const 18 May.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr SBP 15 May; Syr 17 May; Mexico 19 – 20 May; Syr 26 May; only reports.

Swainson's Thrush: arr TR 4 May; 3 SFNS 21 May; max 10 Const 25 May.

Hermit Thrush: arr SNC 8 Apr; max 10 SBP 23 Apr; 7 SFNS 23 Apr.

Wood Thrush: arr DB 2 May; max 10 GLSP 7 – 17 May & Erieville 13 May & 10 Hamilton 25 May & 10 Canastota 30 May.

Am. Robin: 275 DH 26 Mar; max 330 DH 29 Mar; 130 SBP 14 Apr.

Gray Catbird: arr Poolville 22 Apr; max 22 DB 16 May & 22 CM 19 May; 21 GLSP 16 May.

N. Mockingbird: 2 Jamesville 2 Apr; 2 Onon L 27 Apr; most rep greater Syr.

Brown Thrasher: arr Port Byron 12 Apr; 4 SP 12 May; max 7 GLSP 16 May.

European Starling: max 1800 DH 17 Mar.

Am. Pipit: arr DH 26 Mar; max 40 DB 15 Apr; last DH 23 May; few reports.

Cedar Waxwing: 197 DH 26 Mar; max 313 DH 3 Apr; 179 DH 28 May; 150 DH 31 May.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: Fabius 11 Mar, only report.

Snow Bunting: max 80 Cazenovia 15 Mar & 80 Deansboro 18 Mar; last 40 SP 23 Mar.

Ovenbird: 12 Williamstown 3 May; max 18 SH 5 May & 18 MNWR east 13 May; 15 Cicero 9 May.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Pratt Falls 14 Apr; max 2 Skan 23 Apr & 2 Pompey 25 Apr & 2 SF 17 May & 2 Orwell 26 May; singles 9 oth locs.

N. Waterthrush: arr HI 27 Apr; max 11 TR 5 May; 6 Cicero 9 May; 5 Nelson 24 May.

Golden-winged Warbler: arr DH 2 May; Skan 8 May; Cicero 18 May; only reports.

Blue-winged Warbler: arr New Haven 3 May; max 6 GLSP 16 May.

“Brewster’s” Warbler: Oswego 16 May; FH 19 May; only reports.

Black-and-white Warbler: arr 2 SFNS 1 May; max 4 SFNS 3 May & 4 FH 22 May.

Prothonotary Warbler: arr West Monroe 17 May; max 2 Port Byron 25 May; only reports.

Tennessee Warbler: arr Fabius 6 May; max 20 SBP 20 May; 18 GB 21 May; 15 SFNS 21 May; good numbers.

Orange-crowned Warbler: FH 24 May (DD!), only report.

Nashville Warbler: arr Brew 2 May; max 6 TR 8 May & 6 Skan 11 May.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER: Pulaski 19 May (MB).

Mourning Warbler: arr HI 8 May; 4 SH 21 May; max 6 WH 26 May.

KENTUCKY WARBLER: FH 23 May (KM).

Com. Yellowthroat: arr WP & Skan 3 May; 17 MNWR east 13 May; 15 GLSP 17 May; max 25 CM 19 May.

Hooded Warbler: arr WH 6 May; 5 SH 9 May; max 7 WH 26 May.

Am. Redstart: arr Syr, Skan & Const 3 May; max 17 SBP 15 May & 17 Oswego 18 May & 17 SNC 19 May.

Cape May Warbler: arr TR 3 May; max 5 Mexico 8 May & 5 Kirkville 11 May & 5

Waterville 16 May.

Cerulean Warbler: arr GLSP 6 May; 2 West Monroe 6 – 17 May; max 6 HI 10 May; 2 TR 8 – 23 May; rep 4 oth locs.

N. Parula: arr SBP 3 May; max 8 FH 16 May; 6 SBP 16 May.

Magnolia Warbler: arr Syr 3 May; max 9 FH 10 May; 7 SBP 20 May.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Dolge & Williamstown 8 May; max 3 Oswego 14 May & 3 SBP 16 May & 3 FH 22 May.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr BLNC 3 May; 7 SH 20 – 21 May; max 8 OF 30 May.

Yellow Warbler: arr DeWitt 27 Apr; 23 DH 12 May; 23 Fabius 15 May; max 32 GLSP 16 May; 23 CM 19 May.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr SP 28 Apr; 6 GLSP 16 May; 6 SBP 16 May; max 11 SH 21 May.

Blackpoll Warbler: arr Bville 10 May; max 15 FH 21 – 24 May; 10 TR 23 May.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr SFNS, SNC 2 May; max 6 SH 14 May; 4 FH 16 May; 4 OF 30 May.

Palm Warbler: arr Tully, SFNS, WP 14 Apr; max 15 DH 5 May; 10 SBP 5 – 8 May.

Pine Warbler: arr Cazenovia 8 Apr; max 4 SVB 6 May; 3 Lake Julia 13 May.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr Chittenango 6 Apr; max 35 Mexico; 33 Kirkville 6 May.

Prairie Warbler: arr Mexico 5 May (DW, DD); max 2 GLSP 24 – 25 May; Georgetown 9 – 13 May; only locs.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr DH 1 May; 5 Williamsville 3 May; max 7 SH 14 May; 5 SFNS 11 – 23 May.

Canada Warbler: arr Syr 10 May; 2 SH 13 May; max Camden 28 May; 2 OF 30 May; low numbers.

Wilson's Warbler: arr CM 5 May; 2 DH 15 May; 2 FH 16 May; max 3 SBP 20 May; relatively few reports.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: arr CM 21 Mar; max 16 GLSP 16 May; 8 Skan 11 May.

Am. Tree Sparrow: max 35 Const 6 Mar; 31 Dolge 12 Mar; last 2 SB 28 Apr.

Chipping Sparrow: arr Williamstown 4 Apr; max 100 SBP 23 Apr; 15 Phoenix 12 May.

Clay-colored Sparrow: arr SBP 3 May (BP, KM); FH 16 May (GD); SBP 8 May (TS); GLSP 25 May (SP, KM, BP); max 3 SFNS 25 May (MP).

Field Sparrow: arr CM, GB 24 Mar; 12 TR 5 May; max 21 GLSP 16 May, good num.

Vesper Sparrow: arr SP 3 Apr; max 4 DB 19 Apr; 3 Pennellville 20 Apr; 3 Richfield Springs 22 Apr; reports from 11 other areas.

Savannah Sparrow: arr Jamesville 31 Mar; 8 SBP 14 Apr; max 16 DH 23 Apr.

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr DeWitt 4 May; max 3 Rome 28 May; rep4 othr locs.

Fox Sparrow: arr Clinton 5 Mar; max 12 TR 17 Apr; 6 SBP 23 Apr.

Song Sparrow: 31 Fabius 7 Apr; max 33 MNWR east 14 Apr; 30 SFNS 2 May; 26 CM 19 May.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Mexico, SBP 9 May; max 3 SBP 10 – 13 May & 3 Mexico 16 May, relatively few reports.

Swamp Sparrow: 20 Phoenix 14 Apr; 10 Tully 6 May; 10 Warren 7 May; max 24 CM 19 May.

White-throated Sparrow: max 30 SFNS 2 May & 30 SBP 3 May; 23 Utica 5 May.

White-crowned Sparrow: Manlius 9 Mar; max 12 DH 3 May; 10 SBP 8 May.

Dark-eyed Junco: 170 Scriba 14 Apr; max 400 SBP 23 Apr.

Scarlet Tanager: arr 4 GLSP 5 May; 4 Williamstown 15 May; max 6 SFNS 21 May; 4 TR 25 May.

N. Cardinal: 15 Fayetteville 18 Mar & 15 Fabius 6 – 11 May; max 25 CM 19 May.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr Clinton 25 Apr; max 6 TR 4 May & 6 Elbridge 6 May & 6 SP 27 May.

Indigo Bunting: arr Manheim 3 May; max 5 DB 16 May & 6 Richland 27 May.

Bobolink: arr Fulton 27 Apr; 12 DH 3 May; max 29 TR 14 May.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 5200 DH 26 Mar; 2500 DH 27 Mar.

E. Meadowlark: arr DH 3 Mar; max 22 DH 3 Apr; 11 DH 12 Apr; 9 DeWitt 20 Apr; 7 Fulton 27 Apr.

Rusty Blackbird: max 230 Pennellville 3 Apr (BP); 50 DeWitt 18 Apr; 85 TR 22 Apr.

Com. Grackle: max 3570 TR 31 Mar; 2700 DH 30 – 31 Mar.

Brown-headed Cowbird: 50 Elbridge 3 Mar; max 75 DH 23 Apr.

Orchard Oriole: arr Nine Mile Pt 3 May (KM, ph); 2 GLSP 16 May; max 8 DH 26 May; 2 Mexico 16, 30 May (DD, DW), poss nesting, new loc.

Baltimore Oriole: arr Brew, SBP, DH 2 May; 28 DH 8 May; max 65 DH 9 May (AS); 18 MNWR east 13 May.

blackbird species: max 1000 OnonL 15 Mar.

Purple Finch: max 18 Dolge 20 Apr; 10 Barneveld 5 May.

House Finch: 12 DH 29 Mar; max 15 Cicero 18 May; 10 DH 31 May.
Com. Redpoll: Camillus 11 Apr, only report.
Red Crossbill: max 31 Big Moose Lake, ADK 31 Mar; most reports from ADK, several reports from SH.
White-winged Crossbill: max 3 Big Moose

Lake, ADK 31 Mar; only loc.
Pine Siskin: 45 Erieville 2 Mar; max 65 DH 23 Apr.
Am. Goldfinch: 47 SP 11 Mar; max 71 Dolge 15 May.
House Sparrow: max 40 SFNS 2 May & 40 OnonL 17 – 26 May.

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REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

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Temperatures throughout most of Region 6 were about average during March but ranged from 3-5 degrees below average for April everywhere except the Adirondacks, which was even colder. May was much warmer, averaging 3-5 degrees above normal in most of the Region, with parts of the Tug Hill as much as 7 degrees warmer than average. Precipitation patterns varied throughout the Region, but generally March and April were modestly wetter and May slightly drier than normal. For the season, the Tug Hill had 1-3 inches of precipitation below normal, and the St. Lawrence Valley had about one more inch of rain than normal.

Much like in 2017, the spring season was preceded by an unseasonably warm spell, with late February temperatures reaching well into the 60s, followed by a seasonably cool March. Frequent checks of locations where American Woodcock were heard peenting during and shortly after February's warm weather did not turn up any woodcock after 6 March until the main arrival period for this species at the end of the month. Although it is entirely possible that these early arrivals were not peenting because of cold weather and were simply missed, one wonders how many of these birds survived several weeks of sustained late winter weather. A cold April led to sluggish migration, and many species that typically arrive between late March and mid-April were later than usual, including Eastern Phoebe, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, and Pine Warbler. By late April weather patterns were more conducive to migration, and most long-distance migrants appeared at or before mean arrival dates.

Overall, for the suite of species for which arrival dates are monitored annually, 31 species were documented within two days of historic averages, 43 species were more than two days early, and 17 species were more than two days late. Some of the species that arrived earlier than their long-term average arrival

dates actually were much closer to means from the last decade. One example is Osprey, with a long-term arrival date of 7 April, making this season's arrival of 1 April seem early, but in no year since 2005 has the first Osprey arrived as late as 7 April, and 1 April is almost exactly the mean arrival date for the past 10 years. Another example is Killdeer, which arrived in February for the fourth year out of the last eight, something that had only been documented once before 2010. Average arrival for all tracked species combined was 24 April, four days earlier than the long-term mean, and about average for the past decade.

Among the waterfowl highlights were three species of geese not frequently seen in Region 6, including a group of seven **Ross's Geese** that two Canadian birders watched fly across the St. Lawrence River to Galop Island on the New York side of the river on 11 March. Single **Greater White-fronted Geese** were at Perch River WMA on 23 March and Wilson Hill WMA on 16 May, and Brian Miller photographed the season's only **Cackling Geese** in Watertown on 16 March. **Eurasian Wigeon** are now virtually annual in Region 6 and seem to be increasing, so singles at Wilson Hill 20-21 April and Perch River 27 April weren't that surprising. King Eider are reported much more frequently in fall and early winter than during spring, so the eider Dick Brouse saw at Montario Point on 31 March was a nice surprise. As is often the case, Nick Leone had the season's only Barrow's Goldeneye, this one on Point Peninsula 5 March.

Other than waterfowl few rarities were found. A **Snowy Egret** Brian Miller photographed at Perch River on 17 May was observed by a couple of other lucky birders who happened to be in the area that day. But typical for this species in Region 6, it quickly disappeared and was not found again. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** spent nearly a week apparently defending a territory on Fort Drum in mid-May but moved on after 18 May. Territorial chats were documented on Fort Drum at least four years in the 1990s, but this is the first one found there at any season since 2001. Five **Little Gulls** on Point Peninsula on 27 April was the highest Region 6 count in many years. They were seen among more than 2600 Bonaparte's Gulls. Amazingly, despite the presence of thousands of Bonaparte's Gulls, only two observers reported this species to eBird for the entire season!

The songbird migration was more active than the past few springs, with warblers moving in good numbers. Tennessee Warblers were especially abundant and seemed to be everywhere for much of May. Also present in seemingly higher than usual numbers were Nashville, Cape May, and Blackpoll Warblers, the latter being especially welcome after their very meager passage through Region 6 last fall. Orange-crowned Warblers are not detected every spring in Region 6, so singles on Fort Drum 4 and 16 May were noteworthy. Hooded Warblers at Fort Drum on 18 May and Wellesley Island on 27 May were north of their traditional nesting range in extreme southern Jefferson County.

Red Crossbills and Pine Siskins nested in the Adirondacks in good numbers and were more spottily distributed elsewhere, including Fort Drum, the

Tug Hill, and other areas mostly peripheral to the Adirondacks. Matt Young, Timothy Spahr, and Nathan Pieplow recorded vocalizations of numerous Red Crossbills in southeastern St. Lawrence County, documenting at least six call types, with as many as five types at a single location and numerous instances of birds of different types interacting. Call types 7 and/or 10, which are especially difficult to distinguish, was the most common in their sample, but types 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 were also present.

The season's species tally of 231 species was one higher than was documented in 2017 but a few species lower than the previous two years, which is somewhat surprising given that the overall volume of birds observed this spring was higher than in the past few years. The relatively active migration, especially during May, was the true highlight of the season for most birders, as just one or a small handful of observers saw any one of the season's rarities.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BI – Barnhart I, T Massena, STLA; **CB** – Chaumont Barrens Preserve; **CCSP** – Coles Creek SP; **CV** – T Cape Vincent, JEFF; **FD** – Fort Drum Military Reservation, JEFF & LEWI; **ICNC** – Indian Creek Nature Center, T Canton, STLA; **JEFF** – Jefferson County; **JCSP** – Jacques Cartier SP; **KC** – Kelsey Creek, T Watertown; **LEWI** – Lewis County; **LPSP** – Long Point SP; **LWMA** – Lakeview WMA; **MM** – Massawepie Mire, T Colton & Piercefield, STLA; **MP** – Montario Pt, T Ellisburg; **PRWMA** – Perch River WMA, JEFF; **PtPen** – Pt Peninsula, T Lyme, JEFF; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP; **RRt** – Remington Recreation Trail, T Canton; **SLR** – St. Lawrence Ri; **STLA** – St. Lawrence County; **StPt** – Stony Pt, T Henderson, JEFF; **TP** – Tibbetts Pt, T Cape Vincent; **ULLWMA** – Upper & Lower Lakes WMA; **WHWMA** – Wilson Hill WMA; **WI** – Wellesley I.

WATERFOWL - VULTURES

Snow Goose: last northbound flock WHWMA 8 Apr; last stragglers 3 Cranberry L 25 May.

Ross's Goose: 7 Ogden Is 11 Mar (MG, MM).

Greater White-fronted Goose: PRWMA 23 Mar (JB, photos!); WHWMA 16 May (TS, photos!).

Brant: heard over FD during nocturnal bird survey 25 May; 33 T LaFargeville 26 May; only reports.

Cackling Goose: 3 T Watertown 16 Mar (BM, photos!), only report.

Mute Swan: max 14 LWMA 13 May.

Trumpeter Swan: multiple reports LWMA, PRWMA, ULLWMA, & WHWMA; 2 Black L 24 Apr another possible nesting location; at least 2 moving around FD 30 Mar thru; increasing.

Tundra Swan: max 15 CCSP 16 Mar; last 4 ULLWMA 2 Apr.

Wood Duck: max 49 ULLWMA 2 Apr.

Gadwall: max 45 PRWMA 27 Apr.

Eurasian Wigeon: WHWMA 20-21 Apr (BD, JB, ph!); PRWMA 27 Apr (ID, SD, MSM, AS).

Am. Wigeon: max 280 PRWMA 27 Apr.

Am. Black Duck: max 56 ULLWMA 2 Apr.

Blue-winged Teal: arr PRWMA 21 Mar; max 4 PRWMA 18-23 May.

N. Shoveler: arr PRWMA 22 Mar; max 16 PRWMA 27 Apr.

N. Pintail: max 240 WHWMA 21 Apr.

Green-winged Teal: max 152 ULLWMA 2 Apr.

Redhead: max 550 TP 7 Mar.

Ring-necked Duck: max 240 PRWMA 23-27 Apr.

Greater Scaup: max 850 JCSP 17 Apr.

Lesser Scaup: max 180 PRWMA 27 Apr.

King Eider: MP 31 Mar (RB), only report.

White-winged Scoter: max 7 Cranberry L 25 May (DC).

Black Scoter: 4 JCSP 6 May (JB), only report.

Long-tailed Duck: max 495 LPSP 27 Apr.

Bufflehead: max 186 JCSP 29 Apr; scarce after 5 May except 76 JCSP 6 May at site that routinely holds winter divers late; lingering ad m ULLWMA thru.

Com. Goldeneye: max 191 JCSP 29 Apr; no reports after 6 May when 44 at JCSP.

Barrow's Goldeneye: 2 PtPen 5 Mar (NL).

Hooded Merganser: max 22 T Lyme 21 Mar.

Com. Merganser: max 120 WHWMA 8 Apr.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 172 PtPen 27 Apr.

Ruddy Duck: 5 Perch L 23 Apr; max 14 PRWMA 27 Apr; only reports.

Com. Loon: arr SLR T Waddington 8 Apr.

Pied-billed Grebe: arr PRWMA 22 Mar.

Horned Grebe: arr CCSP 1 Apr; max & last 4 JCSP 6 May.

Red-necked Grebe: arr PtPen 10 Apr; max & last 11 JCSP 6 May

Double-crested Cormorant: arr JCSP 25 Mar.

Am. Bittern: arr WHWMA 13 Apr.

Least Bittern: arr ULLWMA 12 May.

Great Blue Heron: arr T Brownville 23 Mar.

Great Egret: arr T Canton 8 Apr.

SNOWY EGRET (R6): PRWMA 17 May (BM, AW, GD, photos!).

Green Heron: arr T Lowville 28 Apr.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr Murphy Is 21 Apr.

Turkey Vulture: few reports before 20 Mar.

HAWKS - LARIDS

Osprey: arr PRWMA 1 Apr.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 29 reports Ebird.

Cooper's Hawk: 12 reports Ebird.

N. Goshawk: FD 7 May & Bog River Falls 31 May only reports.

Red-shouldered Hawk: arr T Watertown 21 Mar.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr RRT 22 Apr.

Rough-legged Hawk: last FD 4 May.

Golden Eagle: 7 reports 8 ind 10 Mar to 7 Apr.

Virginia Rail: arr FD 25 Apr.

Sora: arr PRWMA 27 Apr.

Com. Gallinule: arr PRWMA 13 Apr.

Am. Coot: 2 PRWMA 19-27 Apr, only location.

Sandhill Crane: apparent nesting pairs at Lisbon Marsh & ULLWMA; 2 LWMA 25 Apr where nested in past but not believed to nest currently; migr T Watertown 23 Mar; 2 FD 3 Apr; T Alexandria 28 Apr; T Oswegatchie 29 Apr.

Black-bellied Plover: FL 23 May, only report.

Semipalmated Plover: arr WHWMA 11 May; max and last 3 MP 24 May.

Spotted Sandpiper: T Clayton 24 Apr.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr T Hounsfield 27 Apr.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr T Carthage & WHWMA 21 Apr; last MP 24 May.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr T Dekalb 26 Apr.

Upland Sandpiper: arr FD 1 May.

Dunlin: arr WHWMA 11 May; max 19 PRWMA 25 May.

Least Sandpiper: arr PRWMA 10 May; max 30 PRWMA 18 May.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr WHWMA 11 May; max 21 PRWMA 26 May.
Am. Woodcock: peenting m different locations T Canton 1 & 6 Mar; no more reports until widespread arr 27-30 Mar.
Wilson's Snipe: 2 T Leray 30 Mar.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 2640 PtPen 27 Apr (JB); 1 LWMA 26 May only other report, *intro*.
Little Gull: 5 PtPen 27 Apr (JB), only report.
Iceland Gull: LWMA 10-11 Mar, only report.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: BI 27 Mar, only report.
Caspian Tern: arr PRWMA 11 Apr.
Black Tern: arr ULLWMA 5 May.
Com. Tern: arr WHWMA 20 Apr.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr FD 14 May.
Black-billed Cuckoo: arr FD 14 May; max 8 FD 17 May.
E. Screech-Owl: T Watertown 26 Apr, only report.
Snowy Owl: departure generally late Mar & early Apr; 3 still present T Lyme end of May.
Short-eared Owl: Ogdensburg airport 17 Apr (BD); FD 18 May thru (JB, GD, AW).
N. Saw-whet Owl: New Bremen 1 Apr (CL); T Russell 27 May (BB); 2 FD 30 May (JB); only reports.
Com. Nighthawk: arr T Henderson 12 May.
E. Whip-poor-will: arr T Antwerp 3 May.
Chimney Swift: arr FD 2 May.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr T Parishville 4 May.
Belted Kingfisher: arr FD 28 Mar; scarce before 20 Apr.
Red-headed Woodpecker: FD arr date obscured by presence of multiple wintering ind; no reports away from FD.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr T Canton 3 Apr; scarce before 13 Apr.
N. Flicker: numbers picking up by 30 Mar.
Am. Kestrel: widespread arr 21-25 Mar.
Merlin: 19 reports from all portions of Region.
Peregrine Falcon: T Ellisburg 10-11 Mar; 2 FD 4 May; ULLWMA 19 May; only reports, and none from known breeding sites.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr StPt 12 May (MAK); max 3 MM 20 May (BB).
E. Wood-Pewee: arr T Canton 13 May.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr FD 23 May.
Alder Flycatcher: arr FD & RRt 15 May.

Willow Flycatcher: arr T Adams 13 May.
Least Flycatcher: arr FD & T Edwards 3 May.
E. Phoebe: arr T Watertown 1 Apr.
Great Crested Flycatcher: arr ICNC 1 May.
E. Kingbird: arr PtPen 27 Apr.
N. Shrike: last FD 20 Apr.
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr T Edwards 3 May.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr FD 25 Apr.
Warbling Vireo: arr FD 4 May.
Philadelphia Vireo: FD 16 May; FD 18 May, where m occupied terr 2017; only reports.
Red-eyed Vireo: arr T Parishville 3 May.
Horned Lark: PRWMA 17 May, only report after Mar.
Purple Martin: arr PtPen 27 Apr.
Tree Swallow: arr FD 26 Mar.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr LPSP 27 Apr.
Bank Swallow: arr T Brownville 24 Apr.
Cliff Swallow: arr BI 21 Apr.
Barn Swallow: arr BI 21 Apr.
House Wren: arr PtPen 27 Apr.
Winter Wren: arr MM 7 Apr; few before May.
Sedge Wren: arr FD 16 May.
Marsh Wren: arr PRWMA 27 Apr.
Carolina Wren: StPt & T Hammond 11-20 May, only reports.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr FD 4 May; only 4 other rep at 3 loc.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 1st obvious migr FD 19 Apr.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr FD 23 Apr.
E. Bluebird: 1st likely migr T Croghan 30 Mar.
Veery: arr ICNC 6 May.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: none.
Swainson's Thrush: CB 18 May & 6 FD 23 May, only reports.
Hermit Thrush: arr T Croghan 19 Apr.
Wood Thrush: arr FD 2 May.
Gray Catbird: arr KC 25 Apr.
Brown Thrasher: arr FD 23 Apr.
N. Mockingbird: arr PtPen 10 May.
Am. Pipit: arr FD 2 May; only 2 other reports.
Bohemian Waxwing: none.
Cedar Waxwing: scarce before late Apr.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: last CV 17 Mar.
Snow Bunting: max 1200 CV 17 Mar (NL); last T Philadelphia 17 Apr.
Ovenbird: widespread arr 3 May.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr T Adams 6 May.
N. Waterthrush: arr FD 30 Apr.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr ICNC 5 May.
Blue-winged Warbler: arr FD 4 May.
Black-and-white Warbler: arr FD 2 May.

Tennessee Warbler: arr FD 9 May; max 32 FD 23 May.

Orange-crowned Warbler: FD 4 & 16 May (JB).

Nashville Warbler: arr FD & Thompson Park T Watertown 3 May; max 33 FD 9 May.

Mourning Warbler: arr FD 14 May.

Com. Yellowthroat: arr FD 4 May.

Hooded Warbler: FD 18 May & W1 27 May north of traditional nesting areas in S JEFF.

Am. Redstart: arr FD 3 May.

Cape May Warbler: arr Thompson Park T Watertown 5 May; max 8 StPt 12 May; 19 reports, more than usual.

Cerulean Warbler: arr T Dekalb 5 May.

N. Parula: arr FD & T Edwards 3 May.

Magnolia Warbler: arr FD 7 May.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr FD 9 May; max 5 StPt 20 May.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr T Croghan 4 May.

Yellow Warbler: arr RRt 28 Apr.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr FD 3 May.

Blackpoll Warbler: arr RRt 12 May; max 24 RMSP 27 May.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr FD 3 May.

“Western” Palm Warbler: arr PtPen 27 Apr.

“Yellow” Palm Warbler”: arr unreported, but numerous MM by 28 Apr.

Pine Warbler: arr CCSP 21 Apr.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr CCSP 23 Apr.

Prairie Warbler: arr FD 4 May.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr FD & T Canton 2 May.

Canada Warbler: arr FD 10 May.

Wilson’s Warbler: arr FD & T Clayton 16 May; max 6 FD 24 May.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT (R6): FD 14-18 May (JB!).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: arr T Canton 2 Apr; scarce before 20 Apr.

Am. Tree Sparrow: last ICNC 1 May.

Chipping Sparrow: arr FD 10 Apr.

Clay-colored Sparrow: arr FD 3 May; max 21 FD 25 May.

Field Sparrow: arr KC 15 Apr.

Vesper Sparrow: arr FD 19 Apr.

Savannah Sparrow: arr CCSP & FD 23 Apr.

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr FD 2 May.

Henslow’s Sparrow: arr FD 3 May.

Fox Sparrow: arr T Leyden 7 Apr.

Song Sparrow: arr 26 Mar.

Lincoln’s Sparrow: arr FD 16 May.

Swamp Sparrow: arr FD 19 Apr.

White-throated Sparrow: arr FD 23 Apr.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr Thompson Park T Watertown 3 May.

Scarlet Tanager: arr Otter Creek Preserve 5 May.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr KC 25 Apr.

Indigo Bunting: arr Thompson Park T Watertown & ULLWMA 6 May.

Bobolink: arr FD 3 May.

E. Meadowlark: arr T Potsdam 2 Apr.

Rusty Blackbird: arr PRWMA 2 Apr.

Brown-headed Cowbird: arr FD 30 Mar.

Orchard Oriole: StPt 20 May.

Baltimore Oriole: arr FD & T Watertown 3 May.

Com. Redpoll: 4 T Colton 10 Mar, only report.

Red Crossbill: abundant SE STLA, where type 7/10 most numerous but types 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 also present, *intro*; more local FD and elsewhere SW JEFF & LEWI.

Pine Siskin: abundant SE STLA; less numerous but widespread elsewhere thru.

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REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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Eight named winter storms hit the northeast between 1 March and 14 April, an average of one every six days. Fortunately Quinn, Toby, Uma, and Violet either just brushed Region 7 or missed it entirely. On 2 March, Riley underwent bombogenesis and became a genuine nor'easter, battering the coast and leaving 8 inches of snow in the Lake Champlain Valley and more in the Adirondacks. Skyler, also a nor'easter, struck the area and brought blizzard conditions in mid March. Snow fall totals were 23" in Ellenberg, 17" in Chateaugay, and 12" in Plattsburgh. Wilber, which opened April, was mostly a rain event in Region 7. Xanto dropped 2-3" of rain in Plattsburgh on 13-14 April and more in the Adirondacks.

Precipitation totals (water equivalent) in March were three inches or more for almost the entire Region. Temperatures averaged slightly below normal and were cold enough that there was little to no melting of the snow pack. The level of Lake Champlain reached its low of the season on 30 March at just less than 96.5 . Precipitation in April averaged around 5" except in the high peaks area, where more than 6" fell. The rainfall from Xanto alone accounted for roughly half of that and increased the lake level by nearly 0.8 . April was also a cold month. In the western portion of the Region temperatures averaged more than 7°F below normal. In the rest of the Region temperatures were more than 5° below normal. Nationwide, May 2018 was the warmest on record. It didn't set records in Region 7, but still it was 3-5° above average. Precipitation for the month was from 1-2" in eastern portions of the Region, but near 3" in the remainder.

Once again, Lake Champlain did not freeze solid this year. What used to be the exception has become the rule for the past decade or more. Though it is impossible to know, this may account for the arrival of the massive flocks of Snow Geese up to ten days earlier than average. By 5 April the whole of Lake Champlain was free of ice. This and the lack of a retreating ice edge allowed the waterfowl to be dispersed and may have contributed to notable misses of Ross's Goose, Surf Scoter, and Canvasback. But for a single report, Cackling Goose would have been missed as well.

After the end of March and into April, Lake Champlain rose in a series of steps that coincided with warm periods and the heavy rains of Wilber and Xanto. A peak of a little over 100 , flood stage, was reached early in the second week of May. It declined almost in a straight line from there to 97.8 . on 31 May. At this level the mud flats at Laurin's Pool were still under water and at Noblewood Park, the Region's other important shorebird site, suitable area was limited.

There is no doubt these levels were responsible for the limited number of reports of shorebirds this season and the notable misses of Semipalmated and Black-bellied Plovers.

The Crown Point Banding Station (CPBS) opened for its 43rd consecutive season on 4 May and closed on 19 May. This year 485 individuals of 54 species and types were banded, down from 601 and 59 the previous year. The CPBS report suggests this drop off may have been due to a continuous band of stormy weather to the south that blocked migrants' progress. The report also notes that "This was a cool banding season with only a few hot days." This was my personal impression of May's weather that, in spite of the Northeast Regional Climate Center report cited above, May's temperatures were above average.

This season observers counted 216 species of which 201 are listed here. Present in large numbers this winter, **Pine Siskins**, **Red Crossbills**, and **White-winged Crossbills** remained in the area throughout the season. Probable breeding evidence was reported for all three. Always an important find, **Tufted Duck** has become nearly a regular occurrence in the Champlain Valley in recent years. There was a single report of **Golden Eagle** on 24 March from the Intervale Lowlands. At the end of March **Sandhill Crane** returned to Tupper Lake, where it has bred successfully each of the past two years. **Lesser Black-backed Gull** made an unusually strong showing this season, with multiple sightings and, in one case, a maximum of four birds. **Snowy Owl** was reported three times from 2 March to 22 April. The last was of an individual tagged with a radio collar at Island Beach, NJ in the fall of 2017 in a study called Project Snowstorm. A complete map of the bird's progress back to Canada can be found at ([http://www.projectsnowstorm.org/snowstorm/tracker/index.php?map=island beach](http://www.projectsnowstorm.org/snowstorm/tracker/index.php?map=island%20beach)), which indicates that it lingered on Cumberland Head for several days. **Red-headed Woodpecker**, a species reported to be in decline throughout the State in the second atlas, was seen in Owls Head, an area where it was found in both atlasing periods. Finally "**Lawrence's**" **Warbler** was found and photographed at the Webb Royce Swamp Shrublands at the end of May.

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ABBREVIATIONS

Ak – Akwasasne; **AC** – Ausable Chasm; **AF** – Ausable Forks; **AP** – Ausable Pt; **BC** – Bellmont Center; **BB** – Bloomingdale Bog; **BkP** – Black Pd; **BML** – Blue Mountain L; **BWB** – Bulwagga Bay; **CF** – Carpenter’s Flats; **CRW** – Cemetery Rd. Wetlands; **CB** – Cole Bay; **CH** – Cumberland Head; **CP** – Crown Pt; **CR** – Chazy Riverlands; **Es** – Essex; **EF** – Essex Ferry; **FtC** – Fort Covington; **FP** – Furnace Pt; **HH** – Heath Hill Rd; **HS** – Hoghback Swamp; **HB** – Holsington Beach; **ILk** – Indian L; **Ing** – Ingraham; **IP** – Ingraham Pd Rd; **IL** – Intervale Lowlands; **KB** – Kings Bay; **LA** – Lake Alice; **LAg** – Lake Algonquin; **LCI** – Lake Clear; **LC** – Lake Colby; **LPI** – Lake Pleasant; **LTL** – Little Tupper L; **LL** – Long L; **Mal** – Malone; **MM** – Maple Meadows; **MRd** – Middle Road; **MR** – Moffitt Rd; **MVH** – Mount van Hovenberg; **New** – Newcomb; **NP** – Noblewood Pk; **OM** – Oak Mountain; **OH** – Owl’s Head; **PL** – Paradox L; **PB** – Plattsburgh; **PS** – Paul Smiths; **PtF** – Point au Fer; **PtR** – Point Au Roche State Park; **PH** – Port Henry; **PK** – Port Kent; **PC** – Putts Creek; **RP** – Rouses Pt; **SH** – Saint Home; **StR** – St Regis Canoe area; **SB** – Sabattis Bog; **Sir** – Sabattis Circle; **StH** – St. Huberts; **SB** – Sandy Beach; **SL** – Saranac L; **SRM** – Saranac Ri Mouth; **SC** – Scotion Creek; **SLB** – Silver L Bog; **TI** – Ticonderoga; **TB** – Trombly Bay; **TL** – Tupper L; **VV** – Vermontville; **WRS** – Webb Royce Swamp; **WD** – Wilcox Dock; **WLS** – Willis L Swamp; **WB** – Willsboro Bay; **WP** – Westport.

WATERFOWL - VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: 5 PH 18 Mar (S&MR).
Snow Goose: 500 PL 2 Mar (EB).
Brant: 7 WD 24 May (SR).
Cackling Goose: Mal 5 Apr (JT).
Wood Duck: 3 AP 1 Mar (SR); 7 CB 29 Apr (SR).

Gadwall: 3 CR 3 May (BK).
Am. Wigeon: 12 PH 29 Mar (SR); 2 AP 18 Apr (DR).
Am. Black Duck: 9 PH 29 Mar (SR).
Blue-winged Teal: CR 3 May (BK); 2 AP 30 May (SR).
N. Shoveler: 5 CR 3 May (BK).

N. Pintail: 2 PH 29 Mar (SR); 12 FtC 12 Apr (HW).
Green-winged Teal: 15 CR 2 Apr (BK).
Redhead: 13 AP 1 Mar (SR).
Ring-necked Duck: 37 AP 1 Mar (SR).
TUFTED DUCK: CP 18 Mar (AB), *intro*.
Greater Scaup: 320 PB 12 Mar (GC).
Lesser Scaup: 6 CP 6 Mar (SR).
scaup sp: 500 KB 3 May (BK).
White-winged Scoter: 4 WP 29 Apr (S&MR); 50 CR 24 May (SR).
Long-tailed Duck: 80 BWB 29 Apr (S&MR).
Bufflehead: 17 PK 1 Mar (SR); 64 NP 30 Apr (SR).
Com. Goldeneye: 360 PK 1 Mar (SR); 1ad, 8y AP 29 May (SR), confirmed FL.
Barrow's Goldeneye: PK 1 Mar (SR); 2 RP 10 Mar (GC).
Hooded Merganser: 6 PH 29 Mar (SR).
Com. Merganser: 108 CP 6 Mar (SR).
Red-breasted Merganser: CB 19 Apr (SR).
Ruddy Duck: 2 AP 13 May (NG).
Ring-necked Pheasant: WRS 1 May (SR).
Ruffed Grouse: SLB 4 Mar (GC).
Wild Turkey: 30 LL 18 Mar (JC); 20 WRS 27 Mar (GL).
Red-throated Loon: CB 19 Apr (SR).
Com. Loon: 3 EF 5 Mar (CM).
Pied-billed Grebe: AP 1 Apr (BK).
Horned Grebe: 21 PK 1 Mar (SR); CH 12 Apr (BK).
Red-necked Grebe: AP 12 Mar (GC); 22 WP 29 Apr (SR).
Double-crested Cormorant: EF 5 Mar (CM); 150 BWB 29 Apr (ID).
Am. Bittern: 2 BB 4 May (JP).
Least Bittern: AP 30 May (SR).
Great Blue Heron: 20 BRR 31 Mar (MC).
Great Egret: FtC 28 Apr (ID); CR 3 May (BK).
Green Heron: IL 3 May (MMo); CR 3 May (SR).
Black-crowned Night-Heron: SC 22 May (NO).
Black Vulture: 3 MM 1 Apr (SR).
Turkey Vulture: 3 EF 5 Mar (CM).

HAWKS – LARIDS

Osprey: CR 1 Apr (BK).
GOLDEN EAGLE (R7): LL 15 Mar (JC); IL 24 Mar (MY), *intro*.
Bald Eagle: PK 1 Mar (SR).
N. Harrier: MRd 2 Apr (SR).
Sharp-shinned Hawk: NP 9 May (J&PT).
Cooper's Hawk: MR 18 Mar (BK).

N. Goshawk: PB 29 Mar (MB); PS 31 Mar (SR, GC).
Red-shouldered Hawk: MB 24 Apr (AB).
Broad-winged Hawk: HH 10 May (EW).
Red-tailed Hawk: EAW 27 Mar (GL).
Rough-legged Hawk: StH 31 Mar (J&PT).
Virginia Rail: CR 17 May (BK).
Sora: AP 19 May (GC).
Com. Gallinule: LA 13 May (BK).
Am. Coot: 4 AP 18 Apr (DR).
SANDHILL CRANE (R7): TL 30 Mar (MCR), *intro*.
Spotted Sandpiper: CH 4 May (SJ).
Solitary Sandpiper: 2 StR 8 May (SMc).
Greater Yellowlegs: 9 WP 29 Apr (S&MR); 18 CR 3 May (BK).
Lesser Yellowlegs: 20 FtC 4 May (HW); 15 CR 3 May (BK).
Dunlin: 10 CR 26 May (MM).
Least Sandpiper: CH 7 May (BK).
White-rumped Sandpiper: CR 24 May (SR).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 13 CR 21 May (BK).
Pectoral Sandpiper: CH 8 May (BK).
Short-billed Dowitcher: 2 CR 26 May (MM).
Wilson's Snipe: MRd 2 Apr (SR).
Am. Woodcock: 2 MRd 2 Apr (SR).
Bonaparte's Gull: 16 WP 23 Apr (SR).
Iceland Gull: CP 18 Mar (AB); BWB 13 Apr (SR).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: BWB 13 Apr (SR); CR 14 Apr (BK); 4 PH 24 May (SR), *intro*.
Great Black-backed Gull: 4 PK 1 Mar (SR).
Caspian Tern: BWB 13 Apr (SR); 69 BWB 29 Apr (S&MR).
Black Tern: 3 AP 24 May (SR).
Com. Tern: 2 AP 13 May (NG); 19 PH 24 May (SR).

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 20 May.
Black-billed Cuckoo: IP 30 May (JT).
E. Screech Owl: OM 26 May (TVD).
Great Horned Owl: IL 1 Mar (MMo).
Snowy Owl: CH 2 Mar (BK); CP 6 Mar (SR); PtR 22 Apr (BMcN), *intro*.
Barred Owl: AC 11 Mar (RN).
Short-eared Owl: MRd 2 Apr (SR).
N. Saw-whet Owl: PL 19 Mar (EG).
Com. Nighthawk: CP 18 May (SR).
E. Whip-poor-will: WB 9 May (LS).
Chimney Swift: 3 SL 3 May (AB).
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 2 WLS 9 May (KC).
Belted Kingfisher: NP 30 Apr (SR).

Red-headed Woodpecker: OH 24 May (JT),
intro.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: AP 11 Mar (BK).
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: StR 7 May (SMc).
Black-backed Woodpecker: SB 8 Apr (SP).
N. Flicker: 6 LA 17 May (BK).
Pileated Woodpecker: StR 11 May (SMc).
Am. Kestrel: StH 31 Mar (J&PT).
Merlin: StR 8 May (SMc).
Peregrine Falcon: SRM 18 Mar (TF).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: HS 28 May (SR).
E. Wood-Pewee: CP 18 May (SR).
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 2 SLB 18 May
(LM).
Alder Flycatcher: WRS 18 May (SR).
Willow Flycatcher: BC 19 May (NR).
Least Flycatcher: LA 6 May (BK).
E. Phoebe: LA 1 Apr (MMo).
Great Crested Flycatcher: 3 CF 3 May (BK).
E. Kingbird: HH 9 May (EW).
N. Shrike: SL 24 Mar (GC).
Yellow-throated Vireo: PC 23 May (SR).
Blue-headed Vireo: PC 2 May (SR).
Warbling Vireo: 3 KB 4 May (BK).
Philadelphia Vireo: BkP 14 May (BMc).
Red-eyed Vireo: PS 16 May (BMc).
Gray Jay: 7 LL 23 Mar (JC); 2 StR 11 May
(SMc).
Fish Crow: 4 SL 24 Mar (GC); 2 CH 24 Apr
(AB).
Com. Raven: CP 30 Apr (SR).
Horned Lark: 18 MR 18 Mar (BK); 6 LC 1
Apr (AB).
Purple Martin: 3 Ing 21 May (BK).
Tree Swallow: 60 CR 1 Apr (BK).
N. Rough-winged Swallow: CH 6 May (NO);
AP 13 May (NG).
Bank Swallow: 8 AP 19 May (GC).
Cliff Swallow: 7 HB 12 May (SMc).
Barn Swallow: 2 LC 9 May (AB).
Boreal Chickadee: 17 MVH 6 Mar (CM).
Tufted Titmouse: NP 30 Apr (SR).
Red-breasted Nuthatch: LC 10 May (AB).
Brown Creeper: AF 4 Mar (GC).
House Wren: HH 9 May (EW).
Winter Wren: PS 6 May (BMc); LC 10 May
(AB).
Carolina Wren: CH 1 Mar (NO); FP 17 May
(RB).
Marsh Wren: 5 KB 17 May (BK).
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: PC 2 May (SR); 3 TI
10 May (SR).
Golden-crowned Kinglet: SLB 4 Mar (GC).
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: LAg 28 Apr (JdWM).

Veery: LA 6 May (BK).
Bicknell's Thrush: 3 SL 22 May (BMc).
Swainson's Thrush: 1 PS 16 May (BMc).
Hermit Thrush: 2 LC 6 May (AB).
Wood Thrush: HH 10 May (EW).
Gray Catbird: 3 HH 9 May (EW).
Brown Thrasher: IL 2 May (MMo).
N. Mockingbird: PB 12 Mar (GC).
Am. Pipit: 2 LC 30 Mar (AB).
Cedar Waxwing: 6 WP 23 Apr (SR).

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Snow Bunting: 200 RP 15 Mar (JE).
Ovenbird: PL 3 May (EG).
Louisiana Waterthrush: 2 TI 10 May (SR).
N. Waterthrush: Ak 1 May (HW).
Golden-winged Warbler: FtC 14 May (EW);
WRS 29 May (SR).
Blue-winged Warbler: WRS 27 May (NR).
"Lawrence's" Warbler: WRS 29 May (SR),
ph.
Black-and-white Warbler: PL 3 May (EG).
Tennessee Warbler: HH 9 May (EW).
Nashville Warbler: PS 6 May (Mc).
Mourning Warbler: BC 17 May (NR).
Com. Yellowthroat: CH 6 May (SJ).
Am. Redstart: PtF 3 May (BK).
Cape May Warbler: 3 StR 11 May (SMc).
N. Parula: 2 PS 6 May (BMc).
Magnolia Warbler: LCI 10 May (SMc).
Bay-breasted Warbler: HH 10 May (EW); 4
PS 16 May (BMc).
Blackburnian Warbler: 2 StR 11 May (SMc).
Yellow Warbler: LA 5 May (BK).
Chestnut-sided Warbler: 5 HH (May (EW).
Blackpoll Warbler: 27 AP 27 May (KMc).
Black-throated Blue Warbler: PS 6 May
(BMc).
Palm Warbler: CH 6 May (BK).
Pine Warbler: BW 29 Apr (ID).
Yellow-rumped Warbler: 36 CR 3 May (SR).
Black-throated Green Warbler: PL 3 May
(EG); 3 PS 6 May (BMc).
Canada Warbler: LPI 12 May (JdWM).
Wilson's Warbler: FP 17 May (RB).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: BML 17 Apr (R&EB).
Am. Tree Sparrow: LC 14 Apr (BMc).
Chipping Sparrow: 2 IL 14 Apr (M&WMo).
Clay-colored Sparrow: 12 May.
Field Sparrow: PtR 26 Apr (JH).
Vesper Sparrow: 16 Ilk 14 Apr (M&WMo); 4
PtR 24 Apr (AB).
Savannah Sparrow: IL 13 Apr (MMo).
Fox Sparrow: MM 14 Mar (SR).

Lincoln's Sparrow: PS 16 May (BMc).
Swamp Sparrow: 4 LA 6 May (BK).
White-throated Sparrow: 5 MM 124 Mar (SR).
White-crowned Sparrow: PK 3 May (DR).
Scarlet Tanager: PS 16 May (BMc).
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 5 CF 8 May (BK).
Indigo Bunting: 2 New 17 May (SMc); CRW 25 May (J&PT).
Bobolink: CR 3 May (BK).
E. Meadowlark: VV 14 Apr (BM).

Rusty Blackbird: IL 13 Apr (MMo); 16 NP 30 Apr (SR).
Brown-headed Cowbird: 3 TI 5 Mar (SR).
Pine Grosbeak: StH 4 Mar (JC).
Baltimore Oriole: IL 3 May (MMo).
Purple Finch: SLB 4 Mar (GC).
Red Crossbill: 10 PS 1 Mar (CV); LTL 21 Mar (JC), *intro*.
White-winged Crossbill: 6 PS 1 Mar (CV); 10 Sir 18 Mar (JC); 4 SB 8 Apr (SP), *intro*.
Pine Siskin: 36 SLB 4 Mar (GC), *intro*.
Evening Grosbeak: 2 WB 20 May (RB).

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REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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The weather in March 2018 was dominated by three heavy snowfalls on the 2nd, 7th-8th, and 13th of the month. Albany received about a foot of snow from each event. Not surprisingly, there was still snow on the ground in valley areas through 25 March. The average temperature and precipitation were very close to normal by month's end. April was much colder, 6.7°F below normal, and wetter, 1.00" above normal. Temperatures returned closer to seasonable by the last week of the month, just in time for the arrival of early long-distance migrants. Leaf-out was far behind typical levels. The pendulum swung in the opposite direction as May commenced, with warm and dry conditions throughout the month and very favorable weather for migrants heading to their breeding grounds. The temperature was 6.0° above average at Albany, and precipitation was almost two inches below normal.

A pair of **Greater White-fronted Geese** continued along the Hudson River in Fort Miller, Washington County throughout March. An additional bird was found among Canada Geese on the Mohawk River in Fultonville, Montgomery County on 25 March. Brant made a large northward movement over the area on the evening of 21 May, with many observers reporting more than one thousand birds. Most dabbling and diving ducks were seen in good numbers, with scoters being scarce in spring as usual. Canvasback and Redhead continued to be elusive in the Region, with just two reports received in April. A high count of 58 Long-tailed Ducks at Alcove Reservoir on 7 April was notable, as was a report of 70 Green-winged Teal at Vosburgh Swamp WMA, Greene County on the same date. Ron Harrower did a full circuit around Saratoga Lake

on 17 April and recorded 38 Common Loons for the morning. 29 Red-necked Grebe were observed on the north end of Lake George at Hague, Warren County on 21 April. During the Alan DeVoe Bird Club Birdathon Day on 12 May, a Snowy Egret was discovered resting in the Stony Kill near Chatham, Columbia County.

A **Chuck-will's-widow** was detected by three observers on 19 May near West Mtn., Warren County. This is the same location where one or more has been observed for at least the past two years. Area birders will monitor the location this summer and in future seasons. A most interesting species in our Region! Eastern Whip-poor-will continues to be found in traditional strongholds, especially the Luther Forest area in Saratoga County. A promising positive trend continues at the Albany Pine Bush Preserve, where formal nightjar surveys located at least four vocalizing individuals in three separate units of the fragmented habitat. The whip-poor-wills were heard into late June and might well be expected to attempt to repopulate the recently restored habitat where they formerly bred.

There were two reports of **Red-necked Phalarope** during the spring migration. One sighting was from the Schoharie Reservoir on 17 April, a single bird. The other observation was two birds at the Alcove Reservoir, Albany County on 9 May. Wrights Loop in Saratoga County produced some excellent shorebird sightings, as the rains of April flooded the farm fields there, and the water gradually subsided leaving shallow foraging habitat. Black-bellied Plover and Short-billed Dowitcher were noted there.

Bonaparte's Gull was observed in very high numbers at widespread locations during April. Two cool, wet weather events put down large flocks onto area waters, once on 15 April and again for a few days at the end of the month. The 15 April occurrence was remarkable for the high counts at so many locations: 210 at Saratoga Lake, 120 at East Canada Lake, 105 on the Mohawk River in Colonie, 100 at Schoharie Crossing, and 83 at Collins Lake. Gary Chapin picked out a **Little Gull** in a flock of Bonaparte's at Bob & Betty Cummings Memorial Park, Washington County on 29 April. Unquestionably the highlight of the spring gull season, however, was the **Mew Gull** found and photographed by Ted Keyel at Collins Lake, Schenectady County during the 15 April event. This represents a rare inland sighting away from the Atlantic Coast and Great Lakes. On 15 April a group of 31 Caspian Terns was observed flying north up the Hudson River from Schodack Island SP.

Short-eared Owls were scarce in March, with a high count of four at the Ft. Edward Grasslands. John Kent found five at a new location along the Hudson River in Selkirk in an area of abandoned farm fields. Snowy Owls continued in the Ft. Edward area through late March, the Montgomery County farmlands into early April, Albany International Airport through 5 April, and a very late owl at Schenectady County Airport on 16 April.

Lindsey Duval had high counts of Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets at Vischer Ferry NHP on 20 April, with 96 of the former and 56 of the

latter. Schodack Island SP is renowned for the density of birdsong emanating from the thick understory of its floodplain habitat, and some careful trailside surveys came up with the following high counts in May: 16 Veery, 16 Wood Thrush, 38 Gray Catbird, 53 Ovenbird(!), and 62 American Redstart(!). Impressive numbers to be sure.

Selected species of interest included three reports of **Clay-colored Sparrow**, one of which was seen by Tristan Lowery on 7 May in the busy urban environment of Washington Park in the city of Albany. Rusty Blackbird numbers seemed to be holding steady, with one report of 115 from Bog Meadow Brook in Saratoga County on 3 May. Worm-eating Warbler may be continuing to make inroads into southern reaches of the area, with observations from three locations in the hill and ravine region of southeastern Albany County. Bill Cook also made note of some species possibly expanding the northern extent of their breeding range, in an excerpt from his monthly summary for the Alan DeVoe Bird Club (Columbia County): “Hooded Warbler bred in Columbia County from 2001 to 2004 on the Alander Mountain trail in Copake. Since then it has shown up as a migrant in 2009, 2015, and this year. Worm-eating Warbler, which also breeds on the Alander Mountain trail in the rhododendron understory is being found at many sites in southeastern Columbia County and is apparently a common breeder in this, until recently, under-birded area. Another unusual southern species, the **Acadian Flycatcher**, made an appearance at Will Yandik’s (Livingston) house this month.”

241 species were reported during the period.

CONTRIBUTORS

Larry Alden, Will Aubrey, Ramona Bearor, Susan Beaudoin, Mike Birmingham, Nancy Castillo, Glen & Malinda Chapman, Steve Chorvas, Jeremy Collison, Bill Cook, Brianna Denoncour, Alan Devoe Bird Club recent sightings, Amanda Dillon, David DiSiena, Craig Driggs, Bruce Dudek, Alan Dupuis, Lindsey Duval, Scott Fackenthall, Larry Federman, Debra Ferguson, Mark Fitzsimmons, Rich Guthrie, HMBirds Yahoo Group, Larry & Barbara Hall, David Harrison, Ron Harrower, John Hershey, John Kent, Nancy Kern, Ted Keyel, Bill Lee, Naomi Lloyd, Tristan Lowery, Larry Main, Alan Mapes, Leigh McBride, Thom McClenahan, Steve Mesick, Joyce Miller, Frank Mitchell, Frank Murphy, Jenny Murtaugh, Ellen Pemrick, Will Raup, Gregg Recer & Cathy Graichen, Neal Reilly, Stacy Robinson, John Roosenberg, Jeanette Roundy, Kathy Schneider, Zach Schwartz-Weinstein, John Shea, Marian Sole, George Steele, Scott Stoner, Craig Thompson, Alison Van Keuren, Phil Whitney, Tom & Colleen Williams, Will Yandik, Robert Yunick.

ABBREVIATIONS

APBP – Albany Pine Bush Preserve, ALBA; **AR** – Alcove Res, ALBA; **BCM** – Black Creek Marsh, ALBA; **BCR** – Basic Creek Res, ALBA; **BMB** – Bog Meadow Brook Nature Trail, SARA; **CCGP** – Coxsackie Creek Grasslands Preserve, GREE; **CF** – Cohoes Flats, ALBA; **CL** – Collins L, SCHE; **CRM** – Cline Rd. Marsh, FULT; **FR** – Five Rivers EEC, ALBA; **FtEG** – Ft. Edward Grasslands, WASH; **FV** – Franklinton Vlaie, SCHO; **HP** – Huyck Preserve, ALBA; **OCA** – Ooms Conservation Area, COLU; **PRWMA** – Partridge Run WMA, ALBA; **SNHP** – Saratoga National Historical P, SARA; **TR** – Tomhannock Res, RENN; **VFNHP** – Vischer Ferry Nature & Historic Preserve, SARA; **WMP** – Wilson M. Powell Wildlife Sanctuary, COLU.

WATERFOWL - HERONS

Greater White-fronted Goose: 2 Ft. Miller WASH 1 Mar.
Snow Goose: max 150 Fultonville MONT 17 Mar.
Brant: max 1900 BCM 21 May.
Gadwall: max 12 Copake L COLU 22 Mar.
Am. Wigeon: max 42 Rexford SARA 24 Mar.
Blue-winged Teal: max 24 VFNHP 15 Apr.
N. Shoveler: max 13 Rexford SARA 22 Apr.
N. Pintail: max 120 Wrights loop SARA 25 Mar.
Green-winged Teal: max 70 Vosburgh Swamp WMA ALBA 7 Apr.
Canvasback: max 3 Middleburgh SCHO 19 Apr.
Ring-necked Duck: max 430 Saratoga L SARA 8 Apr.
Greater Scaup: max 164 Saratoga L SARA 14 Apr.
Lesser Scaup: max 250 Saratoga L SARA 14 Apr.
White-winged Scoter: max 9 Bob & Betty Cummings Memorial Park WASH 29 Apr.
Black Scoter: Saratoga L SARA 13 Apr; AR 9 May.
Long-tailed Duck: max 58 AR 7 Apr.
Bufflehead: max 80 BCR 19 Apr.
Com. Goldeneye: max 120 Ft. Miller WASH 2 Mar.
Barrow's Goldeneye: Saratoga L SARA 11 Apr.
Hooded Merganser: max 50 Westerlo ALBA 17 Apr.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 10 Saratoga L SARA 3 May.

Ruddy Duck: max 70 BCR 19 Apr.
Red-throated Loon: max 4 Ft. Miller WASH 5 Apr.
Com. Loon: max 38! Saratoga L SARA 17 Apr.
Pied-billed Grebe: 4 Collins L SCHE 12 Apr.
Horned Grebe: max 8 Saratoga L SARA 8 Apr.
Red-necked Grebe: max 29 L George WARR 21 Apr.
Great Cormorant: arr Germantown COLU 3 Mar.
Double-crested Cormorant: arr TR 26 Mar.
Am. Bittern: arr BCM 13 Apr.
Least Bittern: arr BMB 5 May.
Great Egret: max 3 RamsHorn-Livingston Sanctuary GREE 27 Apr; Wrights Loop SARA 19 May.
Snowy Egret: Chatham COLU 12 May.
Green Heron: arr Drowned Lands SCA COLU 4 Apr.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 5 Crescent Park Trail SARA 23 Apr.

VULTURES – LARIDS

Black Vulture: max 25 Guilderland ALBA 3 Apr.
Osprey: arr Glenville SCHE 27 Mar.
N. Harrier: max 4 FtEG 2 Mar.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr Saratoga Springs ALBA & Bethlehem ALBA 1 Apr.
Rough-legged Hawk: last Fultonville MONT 8 Apr.
Golden Eagle: Fultonville MONT 21 Mar.
Virginia Rail: arr BCM & Drowned Lands SCA COLU 13 Apr.

Sora: arr Drowned Lands SCA COLU 14 Apr.
Com. Gallinule: arr Carter's Pond WMA WASH 23 Apr.
Am. Coot: max 3 Barber's Farm SCHO 21 Apr.
Sandhill Crane: max 2 Bear Swamp SCHO 19 Apr.
Black-bellied Plover: 2 Wrights Loop SARA 13 May.
Semipalmated Plover: max 19 Lock 2 Mechanicville SARA 23 May.
Spotted Sandpiper: arr Fultonville MONT 3 Apr.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 40 Wrights Loop SARA 1 May (DD), high count.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 18 Wrights Loop SARA 7 May.
Upland Sandpiper: max 3 W. Ames MONT 31 May.
Ruddy Turnstone: Galway L SARA 26 May.
Dunlin: max 28 Lock 2 Mechanicville SARA 23 May.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 4 Wrights Loop SARA 21 Apr.
Short-billed Dowitcher: Wrights Loop SARA 26 Apr, 13 May.
Wilson's Snipe: max 18 Wrights Loop SARA 19 Apr.
RED-NECKED PHALAROPE (R8): Schoharie Res SCHO 17 Apr (DH, JoR); 2 AR 9 May (TW), *intro*.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 210 Saratoga L SARA 15 Apr (LD), high count.
Little Gull: Bob & Betty Cummings Memorial Park WASH 29 Apr.
MEW GULL: Collins Lake SCHE 15 Apr (TK), *intro*.
Iceland Gull: last Saratoga L SARA 9 Apr.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: last Schoharie Crossing SHS 2 May.
Glaucous Gull: last South Bay WASH 26 Mar.
Caspian Tern: max 31 Schodack Isl SP 15 Apr.
Black Tern: Saratoga L SARA 15-17 May.
Com. Tern: max 4 Saratoga L SARA 14 May.

PIGEONS – PARROTS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr Deer Mt Nature Trail ALBA 15 May.
Black-billed Cuckoo: arr Clifton Park SARA 6 May.
Snowy Owl: last Schenectady Co Airport 16 Apr.
Short-eared Owl: last FtEG 25 Mar.
N. Saw-whet Owl: Greenfield SARA 21 Apr; CRM 4 May.

Com. Nighthawk: arr Livingston COLU 7 May.
CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW: West Mt Ski Area WARR 19 May DH, EP, JoR), *intro*.
E. Whip-poor-will: max 7 Luther Forest SARA 14 May.
Chimney Swift: arr Schoharie Crossing SHS MONT 24 Apr.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Hillsdale COLU 28 Apr.
Red-headed Woodpecker: Oppenheim FULT 23 May, only report.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Horicon WARR 18 May.
E. Wood-Pewee: arr Olana SHS 28 Apr, early.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr APBP 17 May.
Acadian Flycatcher: Livingston COLU 12 May, only report.
Alder Flycatcher: arr BMB 5 May, early.
Willow Flycatcher: arr FR 10 May.
Least Flycatcher: arr BMB 27 Apr.
Great Crested Flycatcher: arr FR 2 May.
E. Kingbird: arr Chatham COLU 24 Apr.
N. Shrike: last Sprakers MONT 29 Mar.
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr Drowned Lands Swamp Cons Area COLU; RamsHorn-Livingston Sanctuary GREE 2 May.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr Vosburgh Swamp WMA GREE 15 Apr.
Warbling Vireo: arr multiple loc 2 May.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr Normanskill Farm ALBA; Johnstown FULT 23 May.
Red-eyed Vireo: arr multiple loc 5 May.
Purple Martin: arr Saratoga L SARA 7 Apr.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr Babcock L RENS; VFNHP 8 Apr.
Tree Swallow: arr multiple loc 27 Mar, late arrival date.
Bank Swallow: arr The Crossings ALBA 21 Apr.
Cliff Swallow: arr Ashland GREE 23 Apr.
Barn Swallow: arr The Crossings ALBA 12 Apr.
House Wren: arr Berne ALBA 17 Apr.
Marsh Wren: arr Drowned Lands SCA COLU 13 Apr.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr Schoharie Crossing SHS MONT 24 Apr.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Schodack Isl SP RENS 1 Apr.
Veery: arr Hillsdale COLU 1 May.
Bicknell's Thrush: Hunter Mt GREE 26 May.
Swainson's Thrush: arr Hunter GREE 4 May.
Wood Thrush: arr Ghent COLU 28 Apr.

Gray Catbird: arr Henry Hudson Pk ALBA 29 Apr.
Brown Thrasher: arr Albany ALBA & Kinderhook COLU 13 Apr.
Am. Pipit: arr Staats Isl Rd RENS 1 Apr.

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: last 10 Palatine MONT 19 Mar.
Snow Bunting: last 10 Palatine MONT 3 Apr.
Ovenbird: arr Pachaquack Pres COLU 28 Apr.
Worm-eating Warbler: arr Drowned Lands Swamp Cons Area COLU & 2 Louise E. Keir WMA ALBA 4 May.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr FR 10 Apr.
N. Waterthrush: arr BMB; Mohawk Riverside Landing Pk ALBA 26 Apr.
Golden-winged Warbler: nr Putnam Sta WASH 12-18 May; FR 20 May.
Blue-winged Warbler: arr FR 24 Apr, early.
“Brewster’s” Warbler: nr Putnam Sta WASH 12 May, only report.
Black-and-white Warbler: arr Woodlawn Pres SCHE 24 Apr.
Tennessee Warbler: arr Papscanee Isl NP RENS 7 May.
Nashville Warbler: arr Central Pk SCHE 22 Apr, early.
Mourning Warbler: arr RamsHorn-Livingston Sanctuary GREE & Helderberg-Hudson Rail Trail ALBA 13 May.
Com. Yellowthroat: arr Drowned Lands SCA COLU; FR 1 May.
Hooded Warbler: arr Louise E. Keir WMA ALBA 12 May.
Am. Redstart: arr Drowned Lands Cons Area COLU & Papscanee Isl NP RENS 2 May.
Cape May Warbler: arr Livingston COLU 1 May.
Cerulean Warbler: arr Harlem Valley Rail Trail COLU 3 May.
N. Parula: arr FR 2 May.
Magnolia Warbler: arr BMB 3 May.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Ft Ann WASH 9 May.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr WMP 29 Apr.
Yellow Warbler: arr Elka Pk GREE & Corning Riverfront Pres ALBA 27 Apr.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr Drowned Lands SCA COLU 2 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr BMB & Washington Pk ALBA 9 May.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr multiple loc 2 May.
Palm Warbler: arr Westerlo ALBA 2 Apr.
Pine Warbler: arr Ghent COLU 16 Mar, early.
Prairie Warbler: arr multiple loc 2 May.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr Olana SHS COLU 28 Apr.
Canada Warbler: arr Harlem Valley Rail Trail COLU 8 May.
Wilson’s Warbler: arr VFNHP 3 May.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

E. Towhee: arr E Greenbush RENS 7 Apr.
Am. Tree Sparrow: last Moreau SARA 3 May.
Chipping Sparrow: arr multiple loc 2 Apr.
Clay-colored Sparrow: arr Washington Pk ALBA 7 May.
Field Sparrow: arr Henry Hudson Pk ALBA 2 Apr.
Vesper Sparrow: arr Cocksackie GREE 1 Apr.
Savannah Sparrow: max 14 The Crossings ALBA 21 Apr.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr Ft Edward WASH 3 May.
Fox Sparrow: max 6 FR 29 Mar.
Lincoln’s Sparrow: arr Mawignack Pres GREE 13 May.
Swamp Sparrow: 2 Mud Creek ELC COLU 23 Mar.
HARRIS’S SPARROW: last Altamont ALBA thru 1 Mar (LA, SF).
White-crowned Sparrow: max 8 FR 3 May.
Scarlet Tanager: arr Papscanee Isl NP RENS 2 May.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr New Lebanon COLU 24 Apr.
Indigo Bunting: arr Poestenkill RENS 3 May.
Bobolink: arr FtEG & FR 28 Apr.
E. Meadowlark: arr Livingston COLU 3 Mar.
Rusty Blackbird: max 115 BMB 3 May.
Orchard Oriole: arr Queensbury WARR 1 May.
Baltimore Oriole: arr BMB 27 Apr.
Purple Finch: max 23 Providence SARA 6 Apr.
Red Crossbill: max 16 Rensselaerville SF ALBA 24 May.
Pine Siskin: max 37 Bolton Landing WARR 4 Mar.
Evening Grosbeak: max 7 Bolton Landing WARR 4 Mar.

REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

No report was received.

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REGION 10 - MARINE

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While March and April were colder than normal, May was warmer than normal. The average temperature at Central Park in March was 40.1°F, 2.4° below normal, and in April 49.4°, 3.6° below normal. The average temperature in May was 66.9°, 4.5° above normal. The temperature in Central Park on 3 May hit 92°, after a low of 48° on 1 May. Precipitation was generally very close to normal throughout the season. The exception was Islip, which reported 7.67" of precipitation in March, 3.23" above normal. March also featured several harsh snow storms. Despite an abundance of cloudy and drizzly weather in May, Central Park received only 3.53" of rainfall, 0.66" below normal.

From the perspective of seeing lots of migrant songbirds, it was a very good season. In the first half of May several weak frontal systems produced lots of clouds and modest rainfall, apparently inducing birds to stop and linger in our area without the weather being poor enough to hamper the birding. A couple of warm days on 13-14 April, followed by a significant storm on 15-16 April, produced good birds for several days, including numerous reports of Summer Tanager, Blue Grosbeak, and Yellow-throated Warbler.

Land bird diversity peaked on 4 May, with at least 26 species of warblers reported in Central Park, and again on 13 May, with at least 23 species reported.

A good incursion of Yellow-throated Warblers occurred this season, especially 12-17 April, when at least a dozen birds were reported in the Region. At least two singing males stayed at Bayard-Cutting Arboretum, Great River, Suffolk County, through the season.

An effort by Steve Walter to conduct a spring hawk watch at Alley Pond Environmental Center in Bayside, Queens County produced some interesting results. These included 186 Turkey Vultures on 31 March, and six Bald Eagles during the week of 9 April. These numbers are previously unheard of on Long Island. He also had a Broad-winged Hawk on 11 April, a rarity on Long Island.

A kettle of 40 Broad-winged Hawks was reported from Central Park on 23 April.

In the mega-rarity department, the **Kirtland's Warbler** found in Central Park by Kevin Topping may top the list. The bird fed actively, at times singing, from 11-13 May in nearly-bare trees on the west side of the reservoir. It was enjoyed by many hundreds of birders. This is New York's third record, with the first two in 2014, and hopefully a harbinger of more, as conservation efforts in its breeding habitat in Michigan and Wisconsin continue. Also memorable was that the Kirtland's Warbler shared the park with truly impressive numbers of warblers and other migrant songbirds, a migration that seemed reminiscent of the "good old days". While it may seem difficult to top this mega-rarity, this season saw the third state record of **Wood Sandpiper**. Found in a puddle on the Timber Point Golf Course, Great River, Suffolk County by Pat Lindsay on the tail end of the storm late on 16 April, it was seen by a handful of birders until it disappeared the next day.

Also notable was New York City's first record of nesting Pileated Woodpecker since sometime in the 19th Century, in Staten Island's Greenbelt.

299 species were reported in the Region this spring.

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ABBREVIATIONS

APEC – Alley Pond Environmental Center, Bayside, QUEE; **APP** – Alley Pd P, QUEE; **BPP** – Baisley Pd P, QUEE; **BPT** – Breezy Pt, QUEE; **BRy** – Bryant P, NEWY; **CB** – Cedar B, Babylon, SUFF; **CCP** – Cupsogue CP, SUFF; **CHP** – Conference House P, RICH; **CIC** – Coney I Cr/P, KING; **CP** – Central P, NEWY; **CR** – Cemetery of the Resurrection, RICH; **CRSP** – Connetquot R SP, SUFF; **CVP** – Calvert Vaux P, KING (formerly Drier-Offerman P); **Ed** – Sod fields on Edwards Av north of Route 25, Riverhead, SUFF; **EPCAL** – Calverton Grasslands (former Grumman Property), Calverton, SUFF; **FBF** – Floyd Bennett Field, KING; **FIHW** – Fire Island Hawk Watch, Robert Moses SP, SUFF; **FKP** – Fresh Kills P, RICH; **FMCP** – Flushing Meadows-Corona P, QUEE; **FP** – Forest P, QUEE; **FT** – Fort Tilden, QUEE; **FWP** – Ft. Washington P, NEWY; **GBP** – Goethal’s Bridge Pd, RICH; **GBy** – Gravesend Bay, KING; **GKP** – Great Kills P, RICH; **GwC** – Green-wood Cemetery, KING; **HLSP** – Hempstead L SP, NASS; **HP** – Hook Pd, East Hampton, SUFF; **HSP** – Heckscher SP, SUFF; **JBSP** – Jones Beach SP, NASS; **JBWE** – West End, Jones Beach SP, NASS; **JBWR** – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, QUEE; **KP** – Kissena P, QUEE; **Mass** – Massapequa Preserve, NASS; **MB** – Mecox Bay/Mecox Inlet, SUFF; **MLUA** – Mt. Loretto Unique Area, RICH; **MNSA** – Marine Nature Study Area, Oceanside, NASS; **MP** – Montauk Pt SP, SUFF; **NYBG** – New York Botanical Garden, BRON; **PBP** – Pelham Bay P, BRON; **PL** – Patchogue L, Patchogue, SUFF; **PP** – Prospect P, KING; **RI** – Randall’s I, NEWY; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP, SUFF; **RP** – Jacob Riis P, QUEE; **Rt 105** – Sod fields south of Sound Av between Route 105 and Doctor’s Path, Riverhead, SUFF; **Sag** – Sagaponack Pd/Inlet, SUFF; **Shinn** – Shinnecock In, SUFF; **SPCP** – Smith Pt CP, SUFF; **SPP** – Southards Pd P, West Babylon, SUFF; **SMSP** – Sunken Meadow SP, SUFF; **VCP** – Van Cortlandt P, BRON; **VSh** – Venetian Shores P, Lindenhurst, SUFF; **VSSP** – Valley Stream SP, NASS; **WPP** – Wolfe’s Pd P, RICH.

WATERFOWL - VULTURES

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK:

CVP 16 May (AxW).

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE: Montauk, SUFF thru 11 Mar (mob).

Greater White-fronted Goose: HLSP thru 18 Mar (RBA); Tung-Ting Pd, Northport, SUFF thru 24 Mar (RBA).

ROSS’S GOOSE (R10): Riverhead SUFF thru Mar 4 (RA).

Brant: “Dark Bellied” *Branta bernicla* *bernicla* 12 Apr CIC (DG, et al.), ph.

Eurasian Wigeon: Marine Park, KING thru 30 Mar (RBA); Mill Cr, RICH thru 5 Mar (RBA); 2 Brooklyn Army Terminal, KING 31 Mar (AB), m&f.

“EURASIAN” GREEN-WINGED TEAL (R10): Willowbrook Pd, RICH 24 Mar (EJ).

Redhead: 2 APP thru 11 Apr (SW), m&f, unusual loc.

Harlequin Duck: 3 Pt Lookout, NASS thru 5 Apr (RBA); drake Orient Pt, SUFF thru 3 May (RBA).

N. Bobwhite: 2 Orient Pt., SUFF 3 May (JSe).

PACIFIC LOON: Amagansett, SUFF 28 Apr (AnW); Nickerson B, NASS 28 May (KF, SF, DF).

Com. Loon: max 277 Tiana B, SUFF 16 Apr (DR).

Red-necked Grebe: APP thru 11 Apr (SW); Pt Lookout 6-11 Mar (SW, mob); PP 4 mar (RBA); Marne Park 6 Mar (RBA); 2 Sebonac Inlet, SUFF 17 Mar (P. Maldonado); Lido B 24 Mar (KRo); 2 Gravesend Bay, KING 30 Mar (AB); 2 Gravesend Bay 12 Apr (DG, *et al*).

Sooty Shearwater: 19 RMSP 18 May SSM; 240 pelagic coordinates 40.712, -72.485 28 May (JL).

Manx Shearwater: pelagic coordinates 40.712, -72.485 28 May (JL).

Wilson's Storm-Petrel: 193 pelagic coordinates 40.712, -72.485 28 May (JL).

Brown Pelican: Orient Pt 8 May (JSe).

Am. Bittern: CP 30-31 Mar (RBA, DA), early migr; CHP 11 Apr (SIW), unusual loc.

Great Egret: 2 Midland B, RICH 3 May (RBA).

Glossy Ibis: arr 30 Mar.

WHITE-FACED IBIS: 2 MNSA 19 Apr (MF); Cow Meadow P, Freeport, NASS 20 Apr (BF).

Black Vulture: 3 Riverhead 6 Mar (RA); 8 IHP 3 Mar (NS, *et al*); Sea Cliff, NASS 15 Mar (*vide* ABi); 3 Riverhead 26 Mar (RA).

Turkey Vulture: 55 Riverhead 18 Mar (RA); 24 Riverhead 26 Mar (RA); 85 Miller Field, RICH 30 Mar (SIW); max 186 APEC 31 Mar (SW); 7 Greentree Estate, Manhasset, NASS 12 Apr (SP); large numbers for L.I.

HAWKS - LARIDS

MISSISSIPPI KITE: HLSP 9 May (RK, mob); East Hampton, SUFF 26 May (AC); HLSP 28 May (TH).

Bald Eagle: 6 migr APEC 9-16 Apr (SW)

Red-shouldered Hawk: pr nested N. Great River, SUFF (*vide* PJL), rare on L.I.

Broad-winged Hawk: APEC 11 Apr (SW), rare on L.I.; 40 CP 23 Apr (Sharon Kramer Loew), migr in kettle.

Rough-legged Hawk: Riverhead 18 Mar (RA); 2 EPCAL thru 26 Mar (mob)

Sora: CP 4 May (mob).

SANDHILL CRANE (R10): Suffolk County Farm, Yaphank, SUFF 7-9 Apr (KF, SF, mob).

Am. Golden-Plover: Lido Preserve, Lido B, NASS 20 May (J. Landesberg, PA).

WOOD SANDPIPER: Timber Pt Golf Club, Great River, SUFF 16-17 Apr (PJL, mob), 3rd NY State record.

Whimbrel: BPt 14 Apr (RBA); “White-rumped” BPt 15 Apr (CCo), ph, likely “European” Whimbrel, *Numenius phaeopus phaeopus*; HSP 18 Apr (RBA); 32 GKP 23 May (EJ), large num.

Red Knot: max 440 Little Egg Marsh, Broad Channel, QUEE 14 May (M. Fiurst).

Stilt Sandpiper: Timber Pt 6 May (SSM, PJL), rare in spring.

RUFF: HSP 22-23 May (PJL, mob).

Am. Woodcock: several displaying BRY, early Mar – 9 Apr (AD), unusual loc; 3 Southold, SUFF 2 Apr (L. Normandia), ad w 2 fledglings.

Red-necked Phalarope: 6 pelagic coordinates 40.571, -71.631 25 May (JL); BPt 26 May (JRG).

Bonaparte's Gull: 940 CVP 16 Apr (SS), large num.

Black-headed Gull: imm Gravesend Bay 3-29 Mar (AB, SB, SS); imm Marine Park 5-20 Mar (RBA); ad CIC 7 Mar (RBA) ad CIC 29 Mar (SB); WPP 31 Mar (JRG, SIW, ACi).

Little Gull: WPP 31 Mar (SIW); 2 WPP 6 Apr (ACi); 3 ad WPP 11 Apr (SIW, JRG); Gravesend Bay 16 Apr (IG).

MEW GULL: ad Gravesend Bay 2 Mar (SB); ad FBF 16-17 Mar (SS), *Larus canus brachyrhynchus*; ad Brooklyn Army Terminal 18 Mar (AB), ph.

Iceland Gull: Bush Terminal Piers P, KING 6 Mar (RBA); Lemon Cr, RICH 10 Mar (RV); American Veterans Memorial Pier, KING 22 Mar (RBA); Gravesend Bay 29 Mar (SB, SS); CIC 29-30 Mar (SB, AB); WPP 10 Apr (ACi); GKP 14 Apr (RBA); Miller Field 25 Apr (HF).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: MP 3 Mar (RBA); RMSP 5 Mar (RBA); ad SPCP 17 Mar (MLL); 2 CVP 30 Mar (AB); CIC30 Mar – 4 Apr (AB, SS); ad Coney I, KING 4 Apr (SS); 5 WPP 10 Apr (ACi); 10 Miller Field 16 Apr (IG); 2 CIC 16 Apr (AB); 9 FBF 16 Apr (SS); CP 26 Apr (PP); max 38 RMSP 19 May (KF, SF).

Glaucous Gull: East Marion, SUFF 3 Mar (RBA).

Gull-billed Tern: 3 Nickerson B 22 May, 1-2 rep there thru late May.

Caspian Tern: 3 GKP 14 Apr (RBA); 2 Southaven CP, SUFF 27-29 Apr (JGI).

Black Tern: Rockaway B, QUEE 26 May (CF); CCP 26 May (PMo, TS).

Roseate Tern: PB 19 May (PPI), unusual loc; 3000 Great Gull I, SUFF 27 May (L. Beausoleil).

ARCTIC TERN: PB 19 May (PPI); ad Nickerson B 23 May (SSM).

Pomarine Jaeger: Pt Lookout 16 Apr (BA), ph, found in parking lot.

THICK-BILLED MURRE: Great Gull I, SUFF 25 Apr (*vide* JDi), found dead on beach.

Razorbill: imm SPCP 17 Mar (MLL); 31 RMSP 28 Mar (KF, SF).

ATLANTIC PUFFIN: New Inlet, Fire I, SUFF 7 Apr, found dead on beach (MLL), ph.

PIGEONS – PARROTS

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: CCP 30 May (S. Sullivan, E. Zawatski).

Barn Owl: CP ca. 19 Apr (DA, *et al.*), unusual loc.

Snowy Owl: 3 Bpt 11 Mar (CF); 3 Shin 29 Mar (AnW); Kenny's B, Southold, SUFF 31 Mar (P. Normandia), unusual loc; Pt Lookout thru 5 Apr (RBA); Great Gull I 28-29 Apr (RBA).

Barred Owl: Fisher's I, SUFF 10 Mar (BBo, BF, PMo, TS).

Short-eared Owl: Orient B SP, SUFF 31 Mar (JSe).

N. Saw-whet Owl: Makamah pres, Huntington, SUFF 7 Apr (TS).

Chuck-will's-widow: CP 4 May (AC, mob); 3 Quogue, SUFF 28 May (KF, SF), calling from different locs.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 2 ad JBWE 2 May (SW); CP 3-6 May (mob); FP 7 May (KM); Cunningham P, QUEE 7-11 May (SW); Bayport, SUFF 20 May (L. Stocker).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: 26 Greentree Estate 1 Apr (SP), large num; 2 JBWE 2 May (SW), 14 RMSP 2 May (SSM), migr to west, rare on barrier island.

Hairy Woodpecker: 7 Greentree Estate 1 Apr (SP), large num.

PILEATED WOODPECKER (R10): pr nested, Greenbelt, RICH (*vide* SIW, T. Dulski), **first known nest in NYC since early 1800s;** Caumsett SP, SUFF 25 May (KF).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: CP 13 May (DA, *et al.*); CP 15 May (DA, *et al.*); Ridgewood Reservoir, QUEE 20 May (CF); CP 21 May (DA, *et al.*).

Philadelphia Vireo: CP 22 May (DA, *et al.*).

COMMON RAVEN (R10): pr nested Arthur Ashe Stadium, FMCP (*vide* CF); pr nested Otsego Town P, Dix Hills, SUFF (*vide* PJL); pr nested Brookhaven National Laboratory, SUFF (*vide* PJL); Oakland L, QUEE 12 Mar (IR); Riverhead 4 Apr (RA); 2 FMCP 1 May (SA, MN); Greentree Estate 5 May (SP, *et al.*).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 29 Greentree Estate 1 Apr (SP); 63 Greentree Estate 12 Apr (SP); large #s.

BICKNELL'S THRUSH: CP 16 May (DA, *et al.*); FP 20 May (CF); CLP 21 May (HF); singing.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Ovenbird: 39 Greentree Estate 13 May (SP), large #.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr 30 Mar; FP 3 May (SA, mob); APP 4 May (CCo); late.

Prothonotary Warbler: Frank Melville P, Setauket, SUFF 28 Apr (J. Eggers); HLSP 30 Apr – 5 May (mob); CP 4-6 May (mob); Allison Pd P, RICH 2 May (DE); CLP 3 May (EJ); CP 7 May (DA, *et al.*); CP 13 May (DA, *et al.*); FP 29 May (SW), late.

Orange-crowned Warbler: APP 4 Apr (*vide* PR); Crocheron P, QUEE 19-20 Apr (RBA); NYBG 22 Apr (GW, *et al.*).

Mourning Warbler: CP 15 May (*vide* DA); Madison Square P, NEWY 16 May (E. Goodman, mob), unusual loc; BRY 17-19 May (mob); CP 25 May (DA, *et al.*); FP 26 May (SW).

Kentucky Warbler: PP 28 Apr (RJ); CP 6 May (mob); FP 10 May (SW); CP 11 May (DA, *et al.*); Madison Square P 17 May (TP), unusual loc.

KIRTLAND'S WARBLER: CP 11-13 May (Kevin Topping, mob), 3rd NY State record.

Cerulean Warbler: HLSP 5-6 May (mob); CP 14 May (APe).

Pine Warbler: 2 APP 6 Mar (SW); 31 Greentree Estate 19 Apr (SP), large #.

Yellow-throated Warbler: PBP 7 Apr (GW, *et al.*), early; Willowbrook P 12-13 Apr (RV); CP 13 Apr (*vide* DBa); Owl's Head P, KING 13 Apr (GK); 2 PBP 13 Apr (PH, J. Ward); JBWE 14 Apr PP; PP 14 Apr (DHR); CP 14-15 Apr (RBA); 2 PP 16-17 Apr (RBA); 2 Bayard-Cutting Arboretum, Great River, SUFF 17 Apr – thru (KF, JGl, mob), males singing on territory; High Rock P, RICH 19 Apr (RV); HLSP 27 Apr – 3 May (mob); Crocheron P 29 Apr (EM, *et al.*); Fuchs Pd Pres, Northport, Ft.

Salonga, SUFF 1 May (RBA); Willowbrook P 2 May (RV).

Yellow-breasted Chat: JBWR 5 May (BBo); South Shore Nature Center, Islip, SUFF 11 May (JGI); Quogue Wildlife Refuge, Quogue, SUFF 15 May (MH).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: RMSP 3 May (RBA); CP 5 May (mob); KP 9 May (CCo, KM).

Vesper Sparrow: CP 7-8 Apr (mob).

Lark Sparrow: Shore Rd P, KING 18-20 May (mob).

Grasshopper Sparrow: APP 29 Apr (SP).

Lincoln's Sparrow: about 12 reps incl CP 4 May (MN, SA); CP 5 May (PJ); BRY 19 May (DF).

Summer Tanager: Stony Brook, SUFF 17 Apr (M. Furst), ph; HLSP 17-18 Apr (RP, PR); VCP 17-18 Apr (*fide* DH); GwC 18-20 Apr (RB); CP 22 Apr (KFu); CP 26 Apr (DA, *et al.*); CP 2 May (T. Winston); Oceanside, NASS 4 May (SyS); 2 CP 5 May (PP); FP 6-7 May (MN, *et al.*); CLP 6-7 May (HF); CP 7

may (DA, *et al.*); FP 7 May (mob); BPt 20 May (DG); FP 26 May (SW).

WESTERN TANAGER: PP 16 April (RBA); Brookhaven, SUFF 2 May (RBA).

Blue Grosbeak: Ridge, SUFF 17 Apr (JH); GwC 18-20 Apr (RB); RMSP 22 Apr (PA); Crocheron P 22 Apr (PR); Southaven CP 23-25 Apr (GQ, MH); fem Southaven CP 3 May (MH); fem FP 5-9 May (CF, CCo, SW, mob); MLUA 6 May (RV); CP 7-10 May (DA, *et al.*).

Dickcissel: m Lutheran Cemetery, Middle Village, QUEE 3 May (D. Cavallero, *fide* KM), ph HSP 23 May (RBA).

Boat-tailed Grackle: 216 JBWR 24 Mar (TP), large #; fem CP 25 Mar – 4 Apr (*fide* DA, RBA), unusual loc).

Orchard Oriole: 9 RMSP 2 May (SSM), large num.

Pine Siskin: Humes Estate, Mill Neck, NASS 2-7 May (SM).

EXOTICS

European Goldfinch: 6 Governor's Island, NEWY thru 16 Mar (BC).

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STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

Regional rarities appear in **BOLD**; county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in **UPPER CASE** letters; months are shortened to their first three letters. In species accounts: number of individuals omitted implies that one individual was reported; ! – details seen by Regional Editor; ad – adult; Alt – Alternate plumage; Am. – American; arr – arrival or first of season; BBS – Breeding Bird Survey; BOTS – bird of the season; CBC – Christmas Bird Count; CO – confirmed nesting; Com. – Common; E. – Eastern; FL – fledgling; FY – adult feeding young; I – Island; imm – immature; intro – see introduction to report; juv – juvenile; L – Lake; max – maximum; mob – multiple observers; N. – Northern; NYSDEC – New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; NWR – National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC – report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P – park; Pd – Pond; ph – photographed; Pt – Point; Res – Reservoir; Ri – River; SP – State Park; spm – specimen; subad – subadult; T – Town of; thru – throughout period; Twn – township; W. – Western; WMA – Wildlife Management Area; y – young.

REPORTING REGIONS

Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, except at:

Region 1-Region 2 in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties:

the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia;
NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19
from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County:

the boundary is Mud Creek to NY Route 64, NY Route 64
from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs, and Route 21
from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line.

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County:

the boundary is NY Route 31.

REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February

Deadline is 7 March

Spring Season: March, April, May

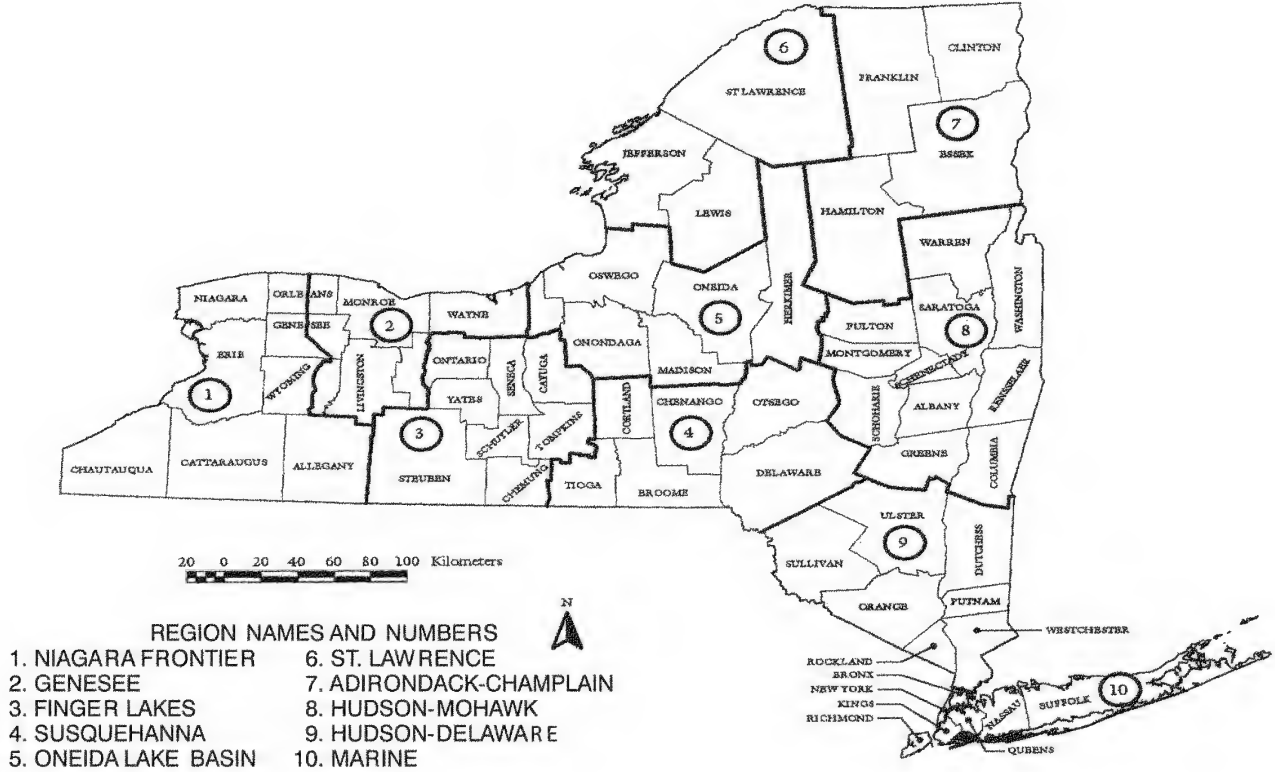
Deadline is 7 June

Summer Season: June, July, August

Deadline is 7 September

Fall Season: September, October, November

Deadline is 7 December



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Front Cover: Eastern Kingbird, Tifft Nature Preserve, *Erie*, 29 Jun 2018, © Sue Barth.

Back Cover: Eastern Kingbird, Birdsong Parklands, *Erie*, 11 Jul 2018, © Sue Barth.

REPORT OF THE NEW YORK STATE AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE FOR 2014

The New York State Avian Records Committee (hereafter “NYSARC” or the “Committee”) evaluated 123 submissions involving 69 occurrences of New York State review species from 2014, including 30 submissions involving four occurrences of potential first State records. Additionally, the Committee evaluated 4 submissions involving four occurrences of New York State review species from previous years. Reports were received from across the state, with 25 of the 62 counties represented plus the pelagic zone. The number of reports accompanied by photographs remains high and naturally benefits the value of the archive. The Committee wishes to remind readers that reports submitted to eBird, listservs, local bird clubs, rare bird alerts (RBAs) and even *The Kingbird* Regional Editors are not necessarily passed along to NYSARC. Doing so, therefore, remains the responsibility of the observer(s). The growing use of the Internet and mobile phones has had a very positive impact on the timely dissemination of rare bird sightings and has made it easier for birders to locate rarities found by others. The Committee has always held that receipt of multiple independent reports provides a much fuller documentation of the sighting and can in some cases increase the likelihood of acceptance. We therefore urge ALL observers, not just the finder, to submit written reports and/or photographs. The names of the 90 contributors that submitted materials (written reports, photographs, video and audio recordings, and sketches) are listed alongside accepted reports and again at the end of this document. Where possible, the name(s) of the original finder(s) is (are) included in the narratives. Production of this Annual Report is a team effort. In addition to the contributors referenced above, several *Kingbird* Regional Editors have helped observers to prepare and submit documentation.

HOW TO SUBMIT REPORTS

Advice on how to prepare and submit a report is provided on the NYSARC pages within the NYSOA web site: <http://nybirds.org/NYSARC/index.htm>

Here, a list of species requested for review by NYSARC (The Review List) is provided along with illustrated copies of previous annual reports. The Committee is very grateful to Carena Pooth (NYSOA Web Master) for updating and continuously improving the NYSARC web site. An on-line reporting form allows observers to compose a written report and attach up to five digital image files. Documentation (written reports and photographs) and any other correspondence for the Committee can also be sent via email to NYSARC

secretary, Gary Chapin, at: nysarc44@nybirds.org. As a last resort, you can also use regular mail to get your report to Gary:

Gary Chapin
125 Pine Springs Drive
Ticonderoga, NY 12883
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HIGHLIGHTS

It was another remarkable year for vagrants in New York State. A mind-boggling four species were added to the official checklist – Willow Ptarmigan (*Lagopus lagopus*), Fea's Petrel (*Pterodroma feae*), Couch's Kingbird (*Tyrannus couchii*), and Kirtland's Warbler (*Setophaga kirtlandii*). Nearly as amazing, there were four species that appeared for just the second time – Common Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*), Common Ground Dove (*Columbina passerina*), Cassin's Kingbird (*Tyrannus vociferans*), and only a few days after the first State record, Kirtland's Warbler. Throw in the three seabirds that turned up far inland and you would have to call 2014 a truly phenomenal year for birds in New York. And this does not even include the 56 Band-rumped Storm-Petrels (*Oceanodroma castro*) that were found on a single pelagic trip!

COMMITTEE NEWS

The 2014 annual meeting was held via Skype on 3 Mar 2018, less than six months after the 2013 annual meeting. Note that the meeting year refers to the latest reports reviewed at that meeting. For example, at the 2014 annual meeting we mainly reviewed reports of birds seen in 2014 along with a few reports from earlier years. As many readers are aware, Skype allows two or more people to meet remotely through the use of their computers. Although there were a few technical difficulties, the consensus from the eight Committee members was that the Skype meeting was a great success. With Committee members at both ends of the state, physical meetings are much more difficult for everyone involved. The use of Skype should allow the Committee to meet more frequently and to make headway on the review backlog. In the 2014 annual meeting the Committee discussed and completed the voting for about two dozen reports that were not finalized prior to the meeting. Review of eBird reports was discussed again. NYSARC has already started using eBird to help establish the full date range of occurrence of individual rarities that have been accepted by the Committee. In addition at times we have used eBird reports to supplement formal submissions to NYSARC, as with better or additional photographs, for

example. With the vastly increased use of eBird, it has become evident that NYSARC will need to more fully incorporate eBird into the review process in order to maintain a complete picture of the status of review species in the state. A few other state committees have incorporated review of eBird records, and NYSARC is hoping to leverage these efforts to bring more eBird records into the Committee's review process. After the extensive changes to the review list agreed upon in the 2013 annual meeting, the Committee decided that further changes were not necessary at this time. The terms of Andy Guthrie, Doug Gochfeld, and Derek Rogers were noted as ending at the end of 2018. Potential new Committee members were discussed. Further actions concerning the Committee make-up were tabled pending email discussion in the ensuing weeks and will be detailed in the 2015 annual report.

2014 Reports Accepted

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)

2014-21-A/C Six, Morningside Park, **Sullivan**, 24 Jun (John H. Haas, Renee Davis, Kenneth M. McDermott, ph J. Haas, Mary Collier)

Six unusual-looking ducks were discovered by Carl Lindsley at Morningside Park on 24 Jun. He brought Renee Davis to see them, and she immediately recognized them as Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks. Others were alerted and got to see and photograph these birds, which were not found after this day. Records of this southern species in the East have exploded in recent years. This is the eighth accepted record in New York from 2010 through 2014.

Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*)

2014-3-A/B One, Riverhead, **Suffolk**, 16, 27 Jan (Arie Gilbert, Eileen Schwinn, ph A. Gilbert, E. Schwinn). eBird 16 Jan-19 Mar

2014-45-A One, Riverhead, **Suffolk**, 9 Nov (Derek Rogers, ph D. Rogers)

2014-71-A Two, Riverhead, **Suffolk**, 1-2 Mar (Derek Rogers, ph D. Rogers)

The Riverhead area of eastern Long Island has garnered the most records of this relatively recent addition to New York's avifauna. The first bird found there in 2014 was discovered in January by Arie Gilbert and his companions, who quickly posted the sighting, allowing many others to see it that day and into March. On 1 and 2 Mar, Derek Rogers found two Pink-footed Geese at the Riverhead fields, one assumed to be the bird found by Gilbert and the other a new arrival. One bird was subsequently reported to eBird in the area as late as 19 Mar, though it is not possible to tell whether this was the long-staying bird or the newer arrival. On 9 Nov, Rogers found the first fall/winter migrant of 2014 at the Riverhead fields. Despite getting the word out immediately, apparently he was the only observer. Rogers was excited to have the opportunity to hear the bird call on several occasions.

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*)

2014-54-A One, Smithtown, **Suffolk**, 29 Nov (Derek Rogers, ph D. Rogers)

Initially reported earlier in the day by David La Magna, this Barnacle Goose was nicely documented by Derek Rogers. It was not reported in the area after this day. Due to numerous records in recent years, it was decided at the September 2017 NYSARC meeting that reports of this species in downstate areas will no longer be reviewed. Documentation for upstate occurrences is still encouraged.

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)

2014-2-A One, Buffalo, **Erie**, 9 Jan (William Watson)

2014-12-A/B One, Buffalo, **Erie**, 6 Apr (William Watson, James Pawlicki, ph J. Pawlicki, Rick Bacher)

2014-55-A One, Buffalo, **Erie**, 23 Nov (William Watson, ph W. Watson). eBird 23-25 Nov

Bill Watson and Jim Pawlicki documented three sightings of female/immature male Tufted Ducks at the headwaters of the Niagara River in Buffalo during 2014. The January and November sightings involved a bird with a noticeable tuft, believed by some to be the same bird seen in the area during 2012 and 2013. The April bird had a negligible tuft and is considered likely to be a different individual. The November discovery was made by Alec Humann.

Willow Ptarmigan (*Lagopus lagopus*)

2014-8-A/H One, Point Peninsula, **Jefferson**, 25-27 Apr (Kevin McGann, Derek H. Rogers, Kimberly Sucy, Arie Gilbert, Mark Magistro Jr., William Watson, Bernie Carr, Jeff Bolsinger, ph Alex Lamoreaux, D. Rogers, K. Sucy, A. Gilbert, M. Magistro Jr., J. Bolsinger)

This Willow Ptarmigan in Jefferson County was accepted as the first record for New York State. See Wilson *et al.* (2016) for a full account.

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

2014-67-A One, Barker Bicentennial Park, **Niagara**, 18 Apr (Willie D'Anna, ph W. D'Anna)

While scoping and counting Red-necked Grebes (*Podiceps grisegena*) well out on Lake Ontario, Willie D'Anna came across this Western Grebe. He watched the bird for two hours until two other birders arrived, and he was able to obtain some diagnostic digiscoped images. It was only seen by these three birders on the one day.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)

2014-20-A/C One, Chelsea Waterside Park and Piers, Manhattan, **New York**, 22 Jun, 3 Jul (David J. Ringer, Patrick Baglee, Angus Wilson, ph D. Ringer, P. Baglee). eBird 4 Jul-24 Jul, 9 Aug, 16, 28 Nov, 12, 27 Dec

2014-59-A One, Wilson-Tuscarora State Park, **Niagara**, 29 Aug (Betsy Potter)

While birding at Wilson-Tuscarora State Park next to Wilson Harbor, Betsy Potter heard the song of the Eurasian Collared-Dove, a species she recognized from her visits to Florida. She was able to track the bird down and get a brief view of it before it flew off. Although there were no more sightings here, a bird was photographed at a feeding station a little over a mile from there the following December, perhaps suggesting that this individual stayed in the general area. Manhattan's first-ever Eurasian Collared-Dove was discovered by David Ringer and documented by Ringer, Patrick Baglee, and Angus Wilson. The bird apparently stayed in the area for months, as there are eBird reports from the area up until 27 Dec 2014, albeit with long gaps of up to two plus months between sightings. Interestingly, there are two validated eBird reports from Inwood Hill Park in northern Manhattan from 16 Jul and 3 Sep, which, based upon the descriptions of missing tail feathers, would be a different individual.

Common Ground-Dove (*Columbina passerina*)

2014-61-A One, Jones Beach, **Nassau**, 11, 16, 29 Nov (Arie Gilbert, ph A. Gilbert). eBird 2 Nov-8 Dec

Initially discovered by Sam Janazzo at Jones Beach State Park West End, this Common Ground-Dove was documented by Arie Gilbert. The many eBird reports indicated that the bird stayed for over a month, with the last sighting on 8 Dec. The bird was missing its tail feathers, which may have induced it to stay longer than it might have otherwise. That said, New York's first Common Ground-Dove in 2010 also stayed a lengthy three weeks. This was only the second record for the state, with the first appearing at nearby Captree State Park (Wilson *et al.* 2012).

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)

2014-50-A/B One, Westhampton Beach, **Suffolk**, 16 Nov (David Klauber, Pat Palladino, ph Derek Rogers)

2014-58-A One, Blasdell, **Erie**, 25 Aug (Mike Zebehazy, ph Dennis Russell)

2014-68-A One, Cupsogue County Park, **Suffolk**, 10 Jun (Willie D'Anna, ph Sue Barth)

White-winged Dove has a history of showing up on Long Island, likely dispersants from the burgeoning population in the southeastern United States. In 2014 two Long Island records were documented for NYSARC. The first was at Cupsogue County Park on 10 Jun, discovered by Sue Barth, Celeste Morien, and Willie D'Anna, and the second was at Westhampton Beach on 16 Nov, found by David Klauber and Bobby Rosetti. Both were one-day-only sightings. There are two other Long Island records in 2014 in eBird, one at Montauk and one at Fort Tilden, both supported by clear photographs. Another White-winged Dove, this one just south of Buffalo, was documented for NYSARC by Michael Zebehazy on behalf of the observer/photographer, Dennis Russell.

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)

2014-38-A One, Smyrna, **Chenango**, 30 Sep (Robert P. Yunick)

Master bander, Robert Yunick, was invited to Gertrude Federici's residence to capture and band this bird. Yunick identified the bird from measurements as a hatch-year female Rufous Hummingbird. According to the homeowner the bird was present from 25 Sep to 1 Oct.

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinicus*)

2014-70-A One, Peru, **Clinton**, 17 Aug (William Krueger, ph W. Krueger)

This Purple Gallinule specimen was found by Elizabeth Cummings along State Route 9 in Clinton County and subsequently collected by Jacob Straub and placed into the SUNY Plattsburgh collection. The record was documented with a report and a photo by Bill Kreuger. While the majority of records are from late summer and fall, as is this one, they span over most of the year, including the winter months (DiCostanzo 1998). Unfortunately, a relatively high proportion of records of this species involve specimens.

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)

2014-16-A One, Staten Island, **Richmond**, 5, 10 May (Catherine Barron). eBird 4-11 May

Found by Richard Veit on 4 May, this Black-necked Stilt on Staten Island was observed and documented by Catherine Barron on 5 and 10 May. There are also multiple eBird reports, including some with diagnostic photos.

Wilson's Plover (*Charadrius wilsonia*)

2014-9-A One, Cupsogue County Park, **Suffolk**, 29 Apr (Justin LeClaire, ph J. LeClaire). eBird 6 May

This bird was discovered by Justin LeClaire as he was monitoring Piping Plovers (*C. melodus*) as part of a team from Virginia Tech. LeClaire observed this or another bird again on 6 May (eBird 2018).

Common Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*)

2014-30-A/C One, Cupsogue County Park, **Suffolk**, 24 Aug (John Gluth, Arie Gilbert, Douglas J. Futuyma, ph J. Gluth, D. Futuyma)

This one-day wonder was found by Andrew Baksh on the Moriches Inlet mud flats off of Cupsogue County Park. A difficult identification, with Semipalmated Plover (*C. semipalmatus*) being very similar, this remarkable record is only the second for New York, with the first at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge on 13 Sep 2005. The Moriches Inlet bird was an adult male.

Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*)

2014-27-A/B One, Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area, **Niagara**, 28 Jul (William Watson, Willie D'Anna, ph W. D'Anna, Sue Barth)

Reports of Ruff have been on the uptick in recent years, with the 2014 record marking the ninth accepted by the Committee in only three years. This year's record was discovered by Alec Humann at Tonawanda WMA in Niagara County. Humann got the word out quickly, allowing several birders to see it before it disappeared the following day. This bird was either a female or a faeder-type male. Faeder males are believed to permanently mimic the plumage of females in order to surreptitiously steal matings on the lek when a female crouches to solicit copulation (Jukema and Piersma 2006). Distinguishing faeder males from females by plumage alone may not be possible in the field. In the hand a faeder male may be told by its wing length, which is intermediate between those of displaying males and females (Karlionova *et al.* 2007).

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

2014-37-A One, Fort Niagara State Park, **Niagara**, 24 Aug (James Pawlicki, ph J. Pawlicki)

This juvenile Long-tailed Jaeger was seen by Jim Pawlicki as it was flying by over a half-mile out on Lake Ontario. Surprisingly, the jaeger turned in toward shore and came within 100 yards of Pawlicki, allowing him to snap some beautiful diagnostic images. Long-tailed Jaeger has been shown to be a regular migrant on Lake Ontario from annual observations at the west end of the lake in Hamilton, Ontario. In more recent years, multiple records have been captured at the southeastern corner of the lake from Derby Hill and from Hamlin Beach State Park near Rochester. Identifying distant jaegers over the lake remains challenging, however, and observers are urged to carefully consider the more likely and very similar Parasitic Jaeger (*S. parasiticus*) before claiming a record of this species. Naturally, photographs can be of immense value in helping to confirm a Long-tailed Jaeger.

Atlantic Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*)

2014-28-A One, Fort Ann, **Washington**, 27 May (Jeremy J. Kirchman, ph J. Kirchman)

A worker on the farm of Alex Parent in Fort Ann, Washington County, found this adult female Atlantic Puffin alive in the yard by the homestead. The DEC picked the bird up and took it to a bird rehabilitation center, but, unfortunately, it did not survive the day. The pathology report concluded that the bird likely died of starvation. The specimen is now at the New York State Museum (NYSM 16642). The Committee is indebted to the Museum's Curator of Birds, Jeremy Kirchman, for these details as well as the report with photos that documented the record. There is one other record of this species occurring inland in New York. That record concerned a bird that was found alive in a weakened condition near Rhinebeck, Dutchess Co., on 27 Sep 1963 but which died the following day (Bull 1974). The specimen was mounted and placed in the collection of the State University of New York at New Paltz, Ulster Co. While noting this record, Bull placed doubts on its legitimacy by citing the inland locality and the "remarkably

early date” as raising the possibility that it was a captive bird (Bull 1974). This does not seem very likely, however. In support of the likelihood that this was a legitimate vagrant are North Carolina’s first state record, found on a pelagic trip on 14 Aug 1993, and a specimen record from Florida found on 1 Oct 1998 (eBird 2018, Pranty 1999). There are other Aug and Sep reports of this species from off the coast of Massachusetts (eBird 2018). Perhaps Bull’s concerns influenced the authors and editors of Bull’s Birds of New York State, who also suggested that it could have been a captive bird (Lolya 1998).

Mew Gull (*Larus canus canus*)

2014-64-A One, Brooklyn, **Kings**, 26 Jan (Andrew Baksh, ph A. Baksh). eBird 24-26 Jan

This adult Mew Gull was found on 24 Jan by Shane Blodgett. It was documented for NYSARC by Andrew Baksh, who included three helpful photos. As is typical of coastal records of this species, it belonged to the nominate European race, *L. c. canus*, also known as Common Gull and recognized by some authorities (e.g. Sibley 1996) as a separate species from the North American race, *L. c. brachyrhynchus*.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)

2014-24-A One, Somerset Lake, **Delaware**, 27 Jun (Alan Ryff)

From her dock on Somerset Lake in Delaware County, Margaret Jewitt spotted a tern flying over the water. Any kind of gull or tern was unusual there, so she asked Alan Ryff to come see the bird. Ryff immediately recognized the bird as a small *Sterna* tern, likely a Common (*S. hirundo*) or Forster’s (*S. forsteri*), species that he was very familiar with from 55 years of birding in the Great Lakes area. Since the bird was in poor light, the two observers drove to a different vantage point on the lake, where they obtained excellent close views in binoculars and spotting scope as the bird flew about and foraged. After several minutes of study, the bird gained elevation and appeared to depart the lake. Ryff’s thorough, detailed description described an adult Arctic Tern in alternate plumage and convincingly ruled out other possibilities. Although now a regular early summer migrant to the outer beaches of Long Island, inland reports of Arctic Tern in New York are exceptionally rare, with only four prior reports from there that have been reviewed and accepted by NYSARC.

Sandwich Tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*)

2014-32-A One, Sagaponack, **Suffolk**, 2 Sep (Arie Gilbert, Philip Uruburu, ph A. Gilbert)

This basic plumaged adult Sandwich Tern was found by Arie Gilbert, with Phil Uruburu. This extends the streak of consecutive years with an acceptable record of this species in the state to eight.

White-faced Storm-Petrel (*Pelagodroma marina*)

2014-51-A One, Hudson Canyon, **Pelagic (Suffolk)**, 12 Aug (Sean Sime, ph S. Sime)

Continuing the trend of late summer sightings in recent years, this White-faced Storm-Petrel was found during a See Life Paulagics trip, organized by Paul Guris. The documentation, provided by Sean Sime, included two diagnostic photos.

Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*)

2014-52-A Fifty-six, Hudson Canyon, **Pelagic (Suffolk)**, 12 Aug (Sean Sime, ph S. Sime)

With only two prior records accepted by NYSARC, few people were expecting 56 Band-rumped Storm-Petrels to be found in New York waters on a single pelagic trip. This remarkable number was seen on a See Life Paulagics trip and is another testament to the fine work that “pelagic pioneers” are doing in the exploration of New York’s pelagic zone. Sean Sime documented these birds and included several photos. Although he only personally saw “roughly 40,” the official trip total was 56. This number is supported by eBird reports from three locations with totals of 52, two, and two individuals.

Fea’s Petrel (*Pterodroma feae*)

2014-48-A/B One, Coordinates of 39.41 degrees North, 72.16667 West, **Pelagic (Suffolk)**, 12 Aug (Doug Gochfeld, Sean Sime, ph D. Gochfeld, S. Sime)

This Fea’s Petrel, discovered on an organized pelagic trip, was the first fully accepted record in New York State. See Wilson *et al.* (2016) for a full account.

Great Shearwater (*Ardenna gravis*)

2014-49-A One, DeRuyter Reservoir, **Madison**, 18 Jul (Bill Purcell, ph B. Purcell)

This is a remarkable record of a highly pelagic species found in the woods alongside a tributary of the DeRuyter Reservoir in Madison County. The finder, Gian Dodici, photographed the bird and then picked it up and released it on the nearby reservoir. It was seen by numerous birders that day but did not appear to be in good health and was captured by a rehabilitator. Unfortunately, it died the following day. The documentation, provided by Bill Purcell, included a close photo of the shearwater on the water. Additional details of this event, including other inland records in and around New York, are discussed by Perry and Wheeler (2014). There are only two prior inland records of Great Shearwater in the state (Askildsen 1998).

Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*)

2014-31-A One, Fort Tilden, **Queens**, 29 Aug (Lukas Musher, ph L. Musher)

2014-39-A One, Crown Point State Historic Site, **Essex**, 23 Aug (Gary Chapin, ph G. Chapin). eBird 23-26 Aug and 2 Sep. Note: the 2 Sep record was from

Noblewood Park, further north in Essex County.

The Brown Booby seen at a great distance from Fort Tilden was documented by Lukas Musher, who watched the bird with Corey Finger. Musher is an experienced seabird watcher, having gained experience at Southeast Farallon Island off California, as well as at several places on the Atlantic Ocean. Despite the great distance, estimated at four to seven kilometers (2.5-4 miles), Musher recognized the species almost immediately as being different from a Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*), the expected sulid on the east coast, by its flight style. The dark head and neck, sharply demarcated from the clean white belly, and the lack of white on the uppertail coverts helped to firmly rule out a gannet. In 2013, New York had its first inland record of Brown Booby when one showed up on Lake Erie at the source of the Niagara River in Buffalo (Pawlicki 2014). That individual was part of a larger incursion of the species up the East coast and in the Southwest. Less than one year later, New York's second inland occurrence was found by Gary Chapin on Lake Champlain. Chapin's documentation included photographs of the Booby, both on the ground and in flight.

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*)

2014-18-A/B One, Town of Wilson, **Niagara**, 24-25 May (William Watson, Willie D'Anna, ph W. D'Anna). eBird 24-30 May

While birding with Betsy Potter and Sue Barth, Willie D'Anna found this Tricolored Heron foraging from some docks and a large willow tree on the west side of Twelve Mile Creek, close to where it empties into Lake Ontario. Numerous birders were able to see this locally rare heron during its one-week stay.

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*)

2014-23-A/B One, Captree Island, **Suffolk**, 22 May & 11 Jun (Derek H. Rogers, Willie D'Anna, ph D. Rogers, Sue Barth). eBird 16 May-13 Jun

This bird was found by Ken Feustel on 16 May and seen by many over the course of its nearly four-week stay. It was often easy to pick out among the Glossy Ibis (*P. falcinellus*) it associated with by its non-breeding plumage. Birders could then look for the red iris and facial skin to confirm the identification.

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*)

2014-6-A One, North Bellmore, **Nassau**, 14 Apr (Robert Proniewych)

2014-7-A One, Prospect Park, **Kings**, 14 Apr (Jennifer Kepler, ph J. Kepler)

2014-15-A One, Geneva, **Ontario**, 15 May (Charles Rouse)

The three records of Swallow-tailed Kite in 2014 make a total of eight in just three years that have been accepted by NYSARC. The birds in North Bellmore and Prospect Park were seen on the same day and around the same time, precluding the possibility of there being just one individual involved. Both were naked-eye observations, with the Prospect Park bird photographed by the

observer, Jennifer Kepler. Though binoculars were not used in either observation, this species is so distinctive that the important distinguishing features were still well seen and noted by the observers. Much rarer than the downstate sightings, Charlie Rouse observed a Swallow-tailed Kite in Ontario County in central New York State. Like the others, Rouse had no binoculars, but he was able to follow the Kite in his car and to stop and get out to observe it flying overhead multiple times.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

2014-13-A One, Greenwood Cemetery, **Kings**, 10 May (Jennifer Kepler, ph J. Kepler). eBird 11 May

2014-14-A Two, Town of Root, **Montgomery**, 13 May (Chris Keefer, ph C. Keefer)

2014-25-A One, New York Botanical Garden, **Bronx**, 11 July (James C. Dawe)

2014-69-A One, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, **Queens**, 17 May (Doug Gochfeld, ph D. Gochfeld)

Records of Mississippi Kite continue to accrue in New York, with a good proportion coming from the New York City metro area. On 10 May, Jennifer Kepler photographed one over Greenwood Cemetery in Brooklyn. On 17 May, Doug Gochfeld photographed an apparent second year bird over Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. On 11 July, a Michigan birder saw an apparent adult over the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx. The latter sighting was by a very experienced birder who was at the gardens to study the plants and thus, did not have binoculars with him. However, his lengthy study and description were compelling to the Committee. Finally, two birds were photographed 13 May while perched a few miles from the only confirmed successful breeding site in the state, in Montgomery County. One bird was observed bringing food to the other, a behavior typical of pair-bonding between mates. Unfortunately, the birds were apparently not found afterward, as there are no validated eBird reports and no reports in *The Kingbird*.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)

2014-65-A One, Braddock Bay, **Monroe**, 10 Apr (Willie D'Anna)

This dark-morph Swainson's Hawk was seen migrating with Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*) at the venerable Braddock Bay hawk-watch. There was a heavy flight of raptors and vultures on this day, with many observers present to witness the spectacle. Long-time hawk-watcher Frank Nicoletti, who was visiting the site where he had been the official counter many years ago, spotted and identified the Swainson's, whereupon the assembled throng of birders oohed and aahed as it passed by overhead.

Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*)

2014-4-A One, Town of Orleans, **Jefferson**, 3 Feb (Ed Sykes, ph E. Sykes)

This submission, from Ed Sykes, included a diagnostic photo of a Great Gray

Owl on a branch right next to the trunk of a deciduous tree. Sykes was the only observer, and the bird was never seen again (Jeff Bolsinger, pers. comm.).

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*)

2014-5-A One, Fort Edward, **Washington**, 6 Apr (Robert P. Yunick, ph Gordon Ellmers)

Robert Yunick was trapping and banding raptors with Alison Van Keuren when Van Keuren noticed a large raptor perched on a snag in a nearby field. Yunick took a brief look at the bird and suspected it could be a Gyr Falcon, but he had to finish processing the American Kestrel (*F. sparverius*) in his trap before he could study it further. Around this time Gordie Ellmers stopped to talk with the two men and was told of the possible Gyr. He went down the road a short ways and began taking photographs, some of which accompany Yunick's NYSARC submission. Eventually, Yunick was able to study the bird and confirm his initial impression, and the word was quickly spread to other birders. From the photographs, this appears to be a rather pale Gyr Falcon of intermediate morph-type. It should be noted that Gyr Falcons do not really show three discrete plumages of dark, gray, and white but rather a continuum from dark to light, such that some birds are difficult to place in one or the other category. The bird appeared to be a juvenile, based on the blue ceres.

Couch's Kingbird (*Tyrannus couchii*)

2014-62-A/N One, Manhattan, **New York**, 23 Dec-9 Jan 2015 (Zack Winestine, Joanne Pawlowski, Richard Guthrie, Angus Wilson, Phil Uruburu, Ardith Bondi, Jamie Koufnan, Klemens Gasser, Thomas W. Burke, Doug Gochfeld, Shawn Billerman, Arie Gilbert, ph Z. Winestine, R. Guthrie, P. Uruburu, A. Bondi, J. Koufnan, Lloyd Spitalnik, Gail Benson, D. Gochfeld, S. Billerman, A. Gilbert, Video Cathy Weiner, Pat Dubren, D. Gochfeld, Sound Recording K. Gasser)

This record was accepted as the first for New York State. See Wilson *et al.* (2016) for a full account.

Cassin's Kingbird (*Tyrannus vociferans*)

2014-47-A/G One, Floyd Bennett Field, **Kings**, 15, 22-25, 28, 30 Nov, 28 Dec 2014, 1, 2 Jan 2015 (Kai Sheffield, Sean Sime, Richard Guthrie, Arie Gilbert, Thomas W. Burke, Shawn Billerman, Willie D'Anna, ph K. Sheffield, S. Sime, A. Gilbert, Gail Benson, Lloyd Spitalnik, David Speiser, S. Billerman, W. D'Anna). eBird 27, 29 Nov, 1, 4-7, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19, 23, 27, 30, 31 Dec 2014, 4, 5 Jan 2015

Representing only the second record for New York State, this Cassin's Kingbird was found by Kai Sheffield on 15 Nov. Although birders looked for it during the next few days, it was not until a week later that it was seen again in the same spot it had been observed originally. During the course of its more than seven week stay, the kingbird would disappear for periods of time but always showed

up again at the same spot, the community garden at Floyd Bennett Field. The first record for New York was a bird found at Montauk on 13 Oct 2007 (Wilson *et al.* 2009).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*)

2014-63-A One, Sands Point, **Nassau**, 19 Oct (Glenn Quinn, ph G. Quinn)

While birding at Sands Point on Long Island Sound, Glenn Quinn came across this Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, which he was able to photograph as the bird foraged. It appears to have been an adult with a relatively long tail and obvious pink underwing coverts. Unfortunately, the bird was not seen by anyone else. This record marks the fourteenth accepted in New York State in the previous 18 years.

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*)

2014-35-A One, Hamlin, **Monroe**, 5 Sep (Dominic Sherony, ph D. Sherony)

2014-60-A One, Rockaway Community Park, **Queens**, 5 Oct (Arie Gilbert, ph A. Gilbert)

Andy Guthrie found the Say's Phoebe in Monroe County in the early evening, down the road from his home, and got the word out immediately. This enabled a handful of birders to see it before sunset. The record was documented for NYSARC by Dominic Sherony and appears to be the earliest fall record in the state. The Say's Phoebe at Rockaway Community Park was found by Corey Finger and documented by Arie Gilbert. With both of these records, the bird was only seen the one day.

Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)

2014-34-A/C One, Town of Henderson, **Jefferson**, 21-22 Sep (Kevin McGann, Tony Shrimpton, Bill Purcell, ph K. McGann, T. Shrimpton, B. Purcell)

2014-40-A/B One, Plumb Beach Park, **Kings**, 2, 4 Oct (Philip Uruburu, Arie Gilbert, ph A. Gilbert). eBird 1-8 Oct

The Jefferson County Northern Wheatear was found by Tony Shrimpton, who immediately alerted other birders. The bird was seen into the following day before presumably departing. Shane Blodgett found the Plumb Beach Wheatear, and the bird stayed around for several days, allowing it to be seen and documented by Phil Uruburu and Arie Gilbert. The late September-early October time frame is the peak period for this species to appear in New York, and these two records fit nicely into that pattern.

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*)

2014-56-A One, Town of Nelson, **Madison**, 3 Dec (Bill Purcell, ph B. Purcell). eBird 22, 29 Nov-4 Dec, 7 Dec

Brian White first noticed this bird outside a window in his yard. Birders were able to see the Solitaire on White's property up until 7 Dec. Bill Purcell documented the bird for NYSARC.

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*)

2014-29-A/E One, Town of Stanford, **Dutchess**, 22-23 Aug (Frank Margiotta, Liz Martens, Carena Pooth, Barbara Mansell, Barbara Butler, ph C. Pooth, B. Mansell)

While driving, Barbara Mansell received a call on her cell phone. She pulled over to answer it, and, while on the phone, she noticed a Lark Sparrow on a nearby power line! Other birders were alerted and were able to see the bird that day and the next. Mansell and four others submitted documentation to NYSARC. Lark Sparrow is a rare but regular fall visitor to Long Island. Although NYSARC does not request documentation for downstate reports, documentation for upstate sightings such as this are strongly encouraged.

LeConte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*)

2014-42-A/C One, Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, **Genesee**, 22 Oct (William Watson, Kurt A. Fox, James Pawlicki, ph W. Watson, J. Pawlicki)

While successfully searching for Nelson's Sparrows (*A. nelsoni*) at Iroquois NWR, Jim Pawlicki and Joe Mitchell also discovered this LeConte's Sparrow. Pawlicki was able to obtain diagnostic photos and show the bird to others, including Bill Watson and Kurt Fox, who also documented the sighting. Almost all of the non-coastal records of LeConte's Sparrow in New York have occurred in April, May, and October—thus, this record fits neatly into that pattern.

Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*)

2014-1-A One, Riverhead, **Suffolk**, 7 Jan (Eileen Schwinn). eBird 2 Feb

2014-10-A One, Blasdell, **Erie**, 24 Apr (William Watson)

Ken and Sue Feustel found the likely female Yellow-headed Blackbird at Riverhead on 7 Jan, and Eileen Schwinn was one of a few birders who also got to see it that day. The adult male in Blasdell was reported to the local Audubon chapter and confirmed by Tom Kerr. Bill Watson and a few others were able to see the bird that day, but it was not reported afterwards. Due to an increase in reports of this species, both downstate and upstate, NYSARC will no longer review documentation for this species, effective in 2018.

Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*)

2014-66-A One, Town of Porter, **Niagara**, 13 Apr (Willie D'Anna)

Brewer's Blackbird formerly occurred in New York State much more frequently, but after the mid 90s, reports have dropped off considerably. Pastures are the most likely habitat to find this species in, and Willie D'Anna was checking one of the relatively few remaining sites in Niagara County when he came across this individual with a mixed flock of Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), Common Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*), and European Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*). Unfortunately, the bird was not in a good position to be digiscoped and before long, the flock took flight. D'Anna and Betsy Potter

spent several minutes trying to relocate the Brewer's Blackbird without success. Although the discovery was put out on local listservs and text alerts, the bird was not seen again.

Kirtland's Warbler (*Setophaga kirtlandii*)

2014-19-A/F One, Hamlin Beach State Park, **Monroe**, 1 Jun (William Watson, Kimberly Sucy, Dominic Sherony, Glenn Miller, Patricia Martin, Andy Guthrie, ph K. Sucy, D. Sherony, G. Miller, A. Guthrie)

2014-43-A One, Fort Drum, **Jefferson**, 4-18 Jun (Jeffrey S. Bolsinger, ph J. Bolsinger)

The Hamlin Beach record was accepted as the first for New York State. See Wilson *et al.* (2016) for a full account. Appearing just three days after the bird at Hamlin Beach, the Kirtland's Warbler at Fort Drum acted as though it was on breeding territory (Bolsinger 2014). This singing male lingered for two weeks. Until a relatively short time ago, this formerly endangered species had never been found nesting outside of Michigan. In recent years, Kirtland's Warbler has increased in population rather dramatically, nesting now in Wisconsin and southeastern Ontario (Bocetti *et al.* 2014), and the possibility of future occurrences in New York would seem to be very good. As Bolsinger states in his article, although it may seem unlikely, future breeding in New York State is possible.

Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*)

2014-53-A One, Heckscher State Park, **Suffolk**, 8 Oct (Patricia Lindsay)

What Pat Lindsay had planned as a brief check of Heckscher State Park before work turned into a few moments of high excitement when she found a Black-headed Grosbeak. Although she was alone and did not have a camera, she studied the bird as well as she could, carefully noting as much as possible. Being very familiar with the call of the similar Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*P. ludovicianus*) enabled her to immediately cue in on this bird as a possible Black-headed Grosbeak. Her thorough study of the bird in a relatively short period of time and subsequent research afterward convinced her and the Committee that this was an adult female/immature Black-headed Grosbeak. Unfortunately for those who searched afterwards, it could not be relocated. Unlike several other western passerines that stray to the coast with some regularity (e.g. Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*), Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*), Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*), Black-headed Grosbeak occurs much less frequently. In addition, it is much more likely to be found in winter or spring than the fall (D'Anna 1998), which is when the other species are found most frequently. The early October date of this record is very unusual and makes this the second earliest ever recorded in New York, the earliest being a sight record on 28 Sep 1945 by John Bull (Bull 1964).

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*)

2014-57-A One, Rotterdam, **Schenectady**, 26-28 Nov (Jenny Murtaugh, ph Janice Lengvarsky)

A male Painted Bunting visited the feeding station of Janice Lengvarsky in Rotterdam, and she was able to take photos with her point and shoot camera. DEC wildlife technician Jenny Murtaugh submitted the documentation on behalf of Lengvarsky. Although it is not possible to be certain from the photos, it appears that this bird was unbanded, and it did not show any obvious signs of captivity. For example, the plumage appeared to be in excellent condition. As a result, Committee members did not raise any concerns about origin.

**2014 Report Accepted
But Origins Unknown or Unnatural**

Scaly-breasted Munia (*Lonchura punctulata*)

2014-26-A One, Brooklyn Botanical Garden, **Kings**, 16 Jul (Terry Rogers)

One Committee member expressed a concern that this bird may not have been identified correctly. However, the remainder of the Committee accepted the identification but considered the origin unlikely to be natural. Although there are some local populations that either are or could become established in Florida and along the Gulf coast, Committee members are of the opinion that the odds of a genuine vagrant to New York from these populations are very small at this time.

2013 Reports Accepted

Franklin's Gull (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*)

2013-89-A Two, Buffalo, **Erie**, 10-11 Nov (James Pawlicki, ph J. Pawlicki)

The Niagara River is the premier site to see this species in New York, with fall migration being the best time by far to find it. Jim Pawlicki found these two immature birds, though on the first day of observation he was only aware of a single individual. However, while examining his photos, he noticed slight plumage differences and realized that he had seen two different first-winter Franklin's Gulls. Returning the following day, he was able to see both birds again. Starting in 2018, NYSARC will no longer review upstate sightings of this species, which has shown a slight increase in reports in recent years. Downstate sightings should still be submitted to NYSARC, as the species remains quite rare there.

"Thayer's" Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides thayeri*)

2013-90-A One, Goat Island State Park, **Niagara**, 23 Dec (James Pawlicki, ph J. Pawlicki)

Although no longer considered a separate species, the status of this subspecies of Iceland Gull has remained fairly consistent in the state. It is annual in small numbers on the Niagara River and quite rare in the rest of the State, especially the downstate area. Identification is difficult, and birders are encouraged to photograph any individuals believed to be of this form. Jim Pawlicki's submission included one photo of the bird standing among Herring Gulls (*L. argentatus*) and another of the bird with its wings spread. The latter shows blackish tips on the six outermost primaries of the left wing, a helpful feature for identifying this subspecies, as "Kumlien's" Iceland Gull (*L. g. kumlienii*) typically shows blackish or grayish on five or fewer primaries.

2013 Reports Accepted in Revised Form

White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii* or *gambelii* intergrade)

2013-96-A One, Braddock Bay, **Monroe**, 3 Oct (Emily Patterson)

This was a submission of a "Gambel's" White-crowned Sparrow, and it involved a bird that was captured and banded at the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory. The report was brief, but a clear close-up photo of the head and breast of the bird was included. Although the well-known field marks for identifying this subspecies are shown, NYSARC strongly encourages multiple photos that show the entire bird clearly, as important additional features unknown to the person(s) submitting documentation could help to make a firmer identification. The key features for separating the *gambelii* subspecies from the expected nominate race are the pattern on the lores and the color of the bill. This bird had completely unmarked lores, as expected for *gambelii*. However, the bill color was not as orange as shown by clear examples of this subspecies. The problem, as it often is when subspecies are involved, is that intergrades between the various subspecies are common. Although some Committee members still considered the bill color within range of *gambelii*, others felt that an intergrade was not ruled out. The Committee was unable to muster enough votes to pass the record as submitted. However, the Committee was convinced that this bird was either *gambelii* or a *gambelii* intergrade, and a vote for that form was unanimously accepted.

2011 Report Accepted

Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*)

2011-155-A One, Manhattan, **New York**, 28 Aug (Sam Stuart, ph Rhys Marsh)
Hurricane Irene was a destructive 2011 hurricane along the Atlantic coast that had weakened to a tropical storm by the time it made landfall in Brooklyn. Sam Stuart and Rhys Marsh were watching the Hudson River from Pier 63 in lower

Manhattan. They had already seen a Wilson's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*) that Irene had brought to the area, and they even had a second Wilson's later. In between those sightings they watched this Band-rumped Storm-Petrel flying low up the river. Marsh's photos show that the feet did not project beyond the tail as they would on a Wilson's and that the tail was not forked as on a Leach's Storm-Petrel (*O. leucorhoa*). The shape of the rump patch, clearly wider than the length, also supported the identification.

1984 Report Accepted

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila caerulea*)

1984-49-A One, Wolfe's Pond, Staten Island, **Richmond**, 20 Dec (Norma and William Siebenheller)

At the time when this report was reviewed in 1985, this was the latest accepted record in New York. There have since been later records. Though voted on and accepted by the Committee years ago, it recently came to our attention that this record was never published in any NYSARC report. Publication here and now corrects that oversight. The Committee encourages anyone who has noticed errors of omission or commission by NYSARC to contact us, no matter how long after the fact. We apologize to Norma and William for this oversight.

2014 Reports Not Accepted

Rufous/Calliope Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus/calliope*)

2014-33-A One, Manhattan, **New York**, 16 Sep

This report of a hummingbird hovering at a fifth floor apartment window box in midtown Manhattan was submitted by someone who claimed familiarity with western hummingbirds, particularly Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), from his time living in California. Unfortunately, the only description provided was that the bird showed a green iridescent back and a pale brownish front. While these features may be consistent with a Rufous or Calliope Hummingbird, without more detail, Committee members could not even be sure that this was not the much more expected Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*).

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

2014-36-A One, Poughkeepsie, **Dutchess**, 23 Sep

This report involved a brief observation of a bird that flew up to a branch, stayed for a couple of minutes, and then flew away from the observer. Although parts of the report were suggestive of this species, Committee members were concerned by the missing details, such as the wing shape, tail pattern, and the color of the secondaries. Some Committee members were willing to give this

relatively experienced birder the benefit of the doubt, but the majority felt that the details provided simply were not enough.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)

2014-41-A One, Mount Kisco, **Westchester**, 12 Oct

This report, submitted by an experienced hawk-watcher, involved a raptor that flew by the Chestnut Ridge Hawkwatch at a distance of about a half mile. As the bird was below the observers, only the upperparts color and pattern were observed. The upperparts appeared uniformly dark, including the uppertail coverts, implying to the observer that this was a dark-morph individual. Appropriately, the description included much detail of the bird's shape and flight style, which are frequently the most conspicuous features of a migrating raptor at a hawkwatch. Committee members were on the fence with this one, but most felt that it was just not quite convincing enough for acceptance.

Western Kingbird x Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis* x *T. tyrannus*)

2014-17-A One, Riverhead, **Suffolk**, 17 May

This interesting kingbird was found by a group of birders on a field trip. The documentation consisted of description and four photos, although only one soft photo was of much usefulness. The bird was with an Eastern Kingbird, and it showed an obvious white tail tip, dark head, white throat, gray breast, and yellow belly. In the field it was identified as a very rare Cassin's Kingbird (*T. vociferans*). The observers very quickly sent out photos and descriptions to various experienced birders, who determined that this was not a Cassin's Kingbird but most likely a Western x Eastern Kingbird hybrid. The Eastern Kingbird influence is obvious, as evidenced by the white tail tip and dark head. The Western Kingbird influence is shown by the yellow belly. Most on the Committee were in agreement that the bird was a hybrid but believed that other hybrid combinations were not ruled out, such as Cassin's x Eastern Kingbird. Western x Eastern hybrids are known from several records, whereas other western species of kingbird x Eastern hybrids are not well documented. Thus, based on likelihood, this may well have been a Western x Eastern Kingbird. However, without better documentation this is unknown and, unfortunately, the Committee could not accept the record.

"Gray-headed" Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis caniceps*)

2014-46-A One, Robert Moses State Park, **Suffolk**, 24 Oct

This was an intriguing report from experienced observers of a junco with a red back, contrasting black mask, and ventral body lacking browns or pinks. "Gray-headed" Junco is extremely rare in the east, with only four eBird records east of the Mississippi River and none along the Atlantic coast. Identification of the junco forms is also complicated by the possibility of intergrades. Thus, a record of this form in New York would need very strong documentation. Unfortunately, the view of this bird was relatively brief, and some details were

not clearly observed, such as the color and pattern of the bill, which would be helpful for ruling out the similar “Red-backed” Junco (*J. h. dorsalis*). It is regrettable that photo documentation was not obtained for this potentially significant record. Without stronger documentation, the Committee was unable to accept the record.

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*)

2014-22-A One, Ithaca, **Tompkins**, 27 Jun

This report of a red bird lacking the black wings of a Scarlet Tanager (*P. olivacea*) could have been a Summer Tanager, but Committee members surmised that this was a relatively inexperienced birder and wondered if it was actually a Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*). The bill was described as thin, which is unlike either a tanager or a cardinal. The late June timing would be very unusual for an upstate sighting of this species. Given these shortcomings and the brevity of the report, the Committee decided not to accept it.

CONTRIBUTORS

Rick Bacher, Patrick Baglee, Andrew Baksh, Catherine Barron, Sue Barth, Gail Benson, Shawn Billerman, Jeffrey S. Bolsinger, Ardith Bondi, Thomas W. Burke, Barbara Butler, Bernie Carr, Gary Chapin, Mary Collier, Simon Courtney, Willie D’Anna, Renee Davis, James C. Dawe, Pat Dubren, Gordon Ellmers, Kurt A. Fox, Douglas J. Futuyma, Klemens Gasser, Arie Gilbert, John Gluth, Doug Gochfeld, Andy Guthrie, Richard Guthrie, John H. Haas, Jessie W. Jaycox, Chris Keefer, Jennifer Kepler, Jeremy J. Kirchman, David Klauber, Jamie Koufnan, William Krueger, Steve Lacker, MaryLaura Lamont, Alex Lamoreaux, Justin LeClaire, Janice Lengvarsky, Patricia Lindsay, Mark Magistro Jr., Barbara Mansell, Frank Margiotta, Rhys Marsh, Liz Martens, Patricia Martin, Kenneth M. McDermott, Kevin McGann, Glenn Miller, Jenny Murtaugh, Lukas Musher, Sally Newbert, Pat Palladino, Andrea Patterson, Emily Patterson, James Pawlicki, Joanne Pawlowski, Carena Pooth, Betsy Potter, Robert Proniewych, Bill Purcell, Glenn Quinn, David J. Ringer, Derek H. Rogers, Terry Rogers, Charles Rouse, Dennis Russell, Alan Ryff, Richard Ryley, Dan Schniedewind, Eileen Schwinn, Kai Sheffield, Dominic Sherony, Tony Shrimpton, Sean Sime, David Speiser, Lloyd Spitalnik, Sam Stuart, Kimberly Sucy, Ed Sykes, Philip Uruburu, William W. Watson, Cathy Weiner, Casey Wetherbee, Angus Wilson, Zack Winestine, Robert P. Yunick, Mike Zebehazy.

Submitted on behalf of the New York State Avian Records Committee:

Willie D’Anna (Chair), Gary Chapin (Secretary), Thomas W. Burke, Andrew Guthrie, James Pawlicki, Doug Gochfeld, Patricia Lindsay, Derek Rogers

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**NEW YORK STATE ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.
71ST ANNUAL MEETING, HENRIETTA, NEW YORK
OCTOBER 6, 2018**

The 71st Annual Meeting of the New York State Ornithological Association, Inc. (NYSOA) was held on October 6, 2018, at the RIT Inn and Conference Center, located at 5257 West Henrietta Road in Henrietta, New York. President Michael DeSha called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM. Roll call of member clubs revealed that 37 delegates from 23 clubs were in attendance and that a quorum was present. Tim Baird made a motion to approve the draft minutes from the 2017 annual meeting. Andy Mason seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

President's Report – Michael DeSha

Mike presented his written report. Highlights of the year include a highly successful annual meeting hosted by the Buffalo Ornithological Society, the beginning of intensive planning for the third New York State Breeding Bird Atlas effort, and significant changes to NYSOA membership routines due to the sudden and totally unexpected death of our membership manager, Berna Lincoln, in October 2017.

Mike reported that Tim Baird, Joan Collins, Carena Pooth, and Kathy Schneider arranged for the NYSOA umbrellas that were given to members attending the annual meeting. The Marketing, Publicity, and Field Trips Committee still lacks a chair, and a volunteer is needed. There are currently no field trips scheduled.

Mike thanked Joan Collins for taking on the role of membership manager. With help from Pat Aitken as circulation manager, Joan has taken over the membership records and will be working to transfer them to Wild Apricot, an online membership management system. Mike also thanked Carena Pooth for her ten years of outstanding service as leader of the New York State Young Birders Club. He reminded the attendees that it is critical that someone be found to continue in her tradition, as she is giving up her role for family health reasons.

Mike's report also summarized the recent activities of the steering committee for the third New York Breeding Bird Atlas (NY BBA III). Unlike

past atlases that were under the control of NYSOA, this one will be administered by a collection of entities. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, NYSOA, New York Audubon, and SUNY ESF are all involved. However, NYSOA is well-represented. Kathy Schneider is the co-chair of the steering committee, and Joan Collins, Mike DeSha, Greg Lawrence, and Bob Spahn are all members of the committee. Applications for the job of project coordinator for NY BBA III have been received, and are currently being evaluated by the steering committee.

After delivering his report, Mike commented that it is increasingly difficult for the nominating committee to find candidates for the jobs of officers, directors, and committee chairs as they become vacant. He stressed that it is important for the board to engage in succession planning, and also for members of the organization who are currently not involved to step up and volunteer. Ideally we would find people to shadow the current holders of these positions, preparing to take them over in the future.

Treasurer's Report – Andy Mason

Andy presented three written reports – a balance sheet, a statement of general operating fund activity, and a statement of the activities and balances in other funds. There was nothing unusual to report.

Spending was under budget for the year, though it did exceed income. The largest expense continues to be printing and mailing *The Kingbird*. Andy reminded the group that this will be his final year as treasurer, and asked them to think about candidates for the job.

NYSOA COMMITTEE REPORTS

Audit Committee – Stephen Chang

Andy presented the report on behalf of Stephen and the committee. An audit of NYSOA's financial statements was conducted as of December 31, 2017, and found no problems.

Bylaws – Bob Spahn

Michael DeSha asked for a motion to approve the bylaws revisions that were circulated earlier this year, concerning conflict of interest statements. Bob Spahn moved to approve the revisions, and Brian Dugan seconded. After brief discussion, the revisions were unanimously approved. Bob Spahn also brought up another recent change in New York State law that concerns when nonprofit organizations must notify members of upcoming business meetings. Notice must now be provided no less than 10 days in advance and no more than 50 days in advance. Traditionally, official notice of the upcoming annual meeting has been distributed more than 50 days in advance. An additional notification will now need to be sent to comply with this requirement, but it can be sent by email. Another minor change to the bylaws will be needed to incorporate this requirement. The change was proposed at this meeting and will be voted on at

the 2019 annual meeting.

Awards Committee – Bill Ostrander

Bill reported that the President's Award, the Gordon M. Meade Distinguished Service Award, and three Lillian C. Stoner Awards would be presented at the evening banquet. There were no nominees for certificates of appreciation this year, but Bill reminded the group that those nominations can be made at any time.

Conservation Committee – Andy Mason

Andy provided a written report on the committee's work over the past year. A major concern has been the Lake Ontario wind project, which will place 600-foot-high turbines near the shoreline of Lake Ontario. NYSOA opposes industrial-scale turbines within two miles of the Great Lakes shorelines, as well as in certain other areas of the state. Committee member Brian Dugan recently attended a public meeting about the project. Andy stated that the committee will be working over the coming year on a NYSOA position paper on large-scale solar power projects and their effect on grassland bird habitat. He welcomes input from members, and expects to have a resolution on this topic ready to be voted on at the 2019 annual meeting.

Doug Futuyma asked about the status of the committee's work on the issue of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). The Trump administration reinterpreted the MBTA to only prohibit intentional taking or harming of birds; the accidental taking or harming of a species does not apply. Doug mentioned that there is litigation challenging this interpretation, and wondered whether NYSOA could get involved at some level with the lawsuit. There are also efforts in the New York legislature to enact a law that would restore the original interpretation of the MBTA at the state level. Some NYSOA member clubs have also been communicating with their U. S. Representatives, encouraging them to guard against any effort to pass legislation that would codify the new interpretation.

County and State Listing Project – Carena Pooth

Carena supplied a detailed written report. There were 129 submissions for 2017, the highest number ever. The full report is available on the NYSOA website.

Marketing, Publicity, and Field Trips Committee

Tim Baird reported for the committee, which is in need of a chairperson. This year's annual meeting giveaway item was a birding-sized umbrella imprinted with the NYSOA name and logo.

Brendan Fogarty delivered a report from Greg Lawrence about the NYSOA Facebook page. Greg's report mentioned that he would like a volunteer to take over the page, and Alison Koczek volunteered immediately. Greg reported that more frequent posts are needed in order to maintain interest in the page, and he

encouraged member clubs and individuals to submit photos and other materials for posting. He also recommended that the page make more of an effort to convert casual visitors to NYSOA members.

Joan Collins reported on field trip activity. The committee's goal is to sponsor one to three weekend field trips per year. There was one trip this past year, focused on viewing and learning about crossbills in the Adirondacks.

Membership and Circulation – Joan Collins, Pat Aitken

Joan Collins supplied a written report on membership activity, showing continued growth in all categories of individual membership. Joan and Pat will be working this fall on the project to convert from spreadsheet records to an online membership management system (Wild Apricot). Once this transition is completed, the online system should make the work of the committee significantly easier.

New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC) – Willie D'Anna

Shai Mitra presented a report from Willie. NYSARC continues to make progress catching up with the backlog of reports. The committee has begun meeting via Skype, which has enabled them to meet more frequently. They recently completed review of 2015 reports, and the 2015 annual report is being prepared.

The committee has decided to begin classifying reports of *Larus canus* to subspecies, either (North American) Mew Gull or (European) Common Gull. NYSARC is also planning to begin accepting eBird records of certain species if they are accompanied by photo or sound recording documentation, and accepted by the eBird reviewer. The committee has recently reached out to the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee, which is already accepting certain eBird records, to discuss the difficult issues involved. The plan will enable the inclusion of records that are never reported directly to NYSARC. This will only apply to species that have been determined not to pose difficult identification problems. There will also be a list of species that will continue to require full NYSARC review before acceptance.

The terms of three committee members will be coming due at the end of this year – Andy Guthrie, Doug Gochfeld, and Derek Rogers. The process of renewing their terms, or replacing one or more, is currently underway. Andy is noted as having been an extremely valuable member of the committee for the past fourteen years.

New York State Young Birders Club (NYSYBC) – Carena Pooth

Carena submitted a written report detailing the club's activities and membership statistics. More than three-quarters of the club's members live in southeastern New York. There were eleven field trips scheduled for this year, though one was canceled due to weather. NYSYBC has awarded more than \$33,000 in scholarships since the program began in 2010. Other than a \$500 startup grant from NYSOA, all of the club's money has been raised by the club. Carena

notified the parents of the club members that she would be resigning as leader, and several of them contacted her with offers to help however they could with operational and administrative tasks going forward.

Publications – Seth Ausubel

Shai Mitra provided an update on his efforts to get *The Kingbird* caught up to its publication schedule. He expects that two more issues will be sent to the printer before the end of the year. Shai mentioned that there is turnover in the regional editor jobs, so we should be thinking about and speaking with potential candidates.

Joan Collins reported that she is always in need of contributions for *New York Birders*, which is published quarterly. In particular, reviews of books and apps of interest to birders would be helpful. Joan reports that the volunteer profiles are one of the more popular features of the newsletter.

Carena Pooth reported on the latest changes to the *Checklist of the Birds of New York State*. There were several taxonomic changes made by the American Ornithological Society that are reflected in the updated checklist. The printed version of the checklist will be available in time for the next round of membership renewals. Shai Mitra mentioned that the regional reports in *The Kingbird* will be switching to the new taxonomic order.

Research – Greg Lawrence

Greg's prepared report was delivered by Brendan Fogarty. The primary focus of the committee this year will be NY BBA III, as well as the annual waterfowl count. Greg will continue as chair of the research committee. He plans to query researchers, conservation partners, and birders in order to develop a list of the top priorities for ornithological research in New York. Greg also plans to make efforts to increase coverage of Breeding Bird Survey routes across the state.

Kathy Schneider reported on the status of planning for NY BBA III. She said that there are seven parties involved in this atlas, unlike previous atlases which were conducted by NYSOA and DEC. The parties are the New York Natural Heritage Program, New York State DEC, Audubon New York, eBird/Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the Cornell Cooperative Research Unit, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF), and NYSOA. The committee has been meeting since 2015 and has already put a lot of time into planning. They have obtained a federal grant of \$750,000, which will be routed to DEC. DEC will contract with ESF, ESF will hire the Natural Heritage Program, and the Natural Heritage Program will hire people to work on the atlas. Making all of those arrangements has consumed much of the committee's time to date. They are now forming four subcommittees to address many issues that need to be worked out. The steering committee is also working on a governance structure to define the roles and relationships of the various entities involved with the atlas. Fifty-six applications were received for the project coordinator position, and the committee is in the process of making a selection.

The committee has written a job description for the regional coordinator positions, and they are beginning to talk to potential candidates. One of the main job duties will be identifying and training volunteers, including teaching them to use the eBird mobile app. The job will also involve review of submitted data, and some degree of oversight of the block sign-up process. It has yet to be determined exactly how the block sign-up process will be divided between eBird and the regional coordinators. Candidates for the regional coordinator jobs will need a thorough knowledge of not only the birds of New York, but also of the birders in their region and their skill levels. The committee is working to develop a pool of candidates for these jobs, and welcomes input. Kathy and Bob Spahn both stated that although a substantial grant was obtained, additional fundraising will be needed. Mike DeSha recommended that NYSOA budget funds to assist with the atlas in coming years. Mike also reported that, after discussion with Andy Mason, he volunteered to have NYSOA serve as a repository for funds coming into NY BBA III from outside sources. A separate account will be created for this purpose.

Waterfowl Count – Bill Ostrander

Bill reported on the 2018 count, the results of which will be published in an upcoming issue of *The Kingbird*. A regional coordinator for the count is needed for Region 9, in southeastern New York.

Website and Information Services – Carena Pooth

Carena presented a printed report detailing all of the updates to the NYSOA website. The report also includes lists of the most visited sections of the website. After the home page, the most popular page on the site is the *Checklist of the Birds of New York State*. The Christmas Bird Count calendar and the NYSARC reports are also among the most viewed portions of the site. Carena also completed a project to convert the entire website to a secure protocol, so that certain web browsers would no longer display a “Not Secure” message. The portion of the website that accepts payments has always used the secure protocol, but it was previously not needed for the remainder of the pages.

DEC Report – Mike Wasilco, DEC Region 8 Wildlife Manager

Mike presented a comprehensive report that was prepared by the DEC Central Office summarizing their work. The information was somewhat dated, covering the period ending in March 2018, since DEC has not had a bird specialist on staff since John Ozard retired last year. They are currently in the process of hiring a new bird specialist to fill John’s position in Albany. The report summarizes DEC’s monitoring efforts for various habitats and species of concern. Mike mentioned the need for volunteers to assist with alpine forest bird monitoring. He also reported on the Young Forest Initiative, a project to maintain early successional habitat, which is needed by certain species. The goal is to maintain young forest habitat on 10 percent of the land in Wildlife

Management Areas. The report also states that DEC staff covered thirteen Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) routes in 2017, but that more than 30 percent of the BBS routes in the state continue to go uncovered.

Election of Officers

Bob Adamo presented the following 2018-2019 slate of officers and directors on behalf of the Nominating Committee:

Officers

President: Michael DeSha

Vice President: Tim Baird

Treasurer: Andy Mason

Secretary: John Kent

Directors 2018-2020

Joseph Brin, Doug Futuyma, Richard Guthrie, Shirley Shaw, Bob Spahn

Shai Mitra made a motion that the secretary cast one ballot for the slate of officers and directors. It was seconded by Alison Kocek, and the slate was elected unanimously. In addition to the new directors, Brian Dugan, Brendan Fogarty, Lucretia Grosshans, and Carena Pooth will be continuing for the second year of their current terms.

Andy Mason made a motion that the secretary cast one ballot to re-elect Bob Adamo (Chair), Kathy Schneider, and Dominic Sherony to the Nominating Committee. Shai Mitra seconded, and it was approved unanimously.

Doug Futuyma made a motion that the secretary cast one ballot to re-elect Stephen Chang (Chair), Tom Burke, and Peter Capainolo to the Auditing Committee. Shai Mitra seconded, and it was approved unanimously.

Kevin McGowan made a motion to elect the Friends of the Washington County Grasslands IBA as a new member organization of NYSOA. Alison Van Keuren seconded, and it was approved unanimously.

New Business

The 2019 annual meeting will be hosted by the Catskill Center, and will take place September 13-15 in the Kingston area. Peg DiBenedetto of the Catskill Center reported that planning is underway, and that they have the enthusiastic support of the John Burroughs Natural History Society, which will be planning field trips and providing leaders.

Onondaga Audubon is considering hosting the 2020 annual meeting.

Kevin McGowan moved to adjourn, and Peg DiBenedetto seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 AM.

Respectfully submitted, John Kent Recording Secretary

PATCH BIRDING—THE STEWART SCHOOL SUMP

Brendan Fogarty

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Divide the 2017 population of Nassau County, New York, by its area, and you get a unit area of 5,000 square feet per person. If that statistic were applied in some sort of hyper-equitable world, the Nassau residents could each claim about one professional basketball court of private land. Thankfully, people are social and have gained a general command of vertical architecture, so wild space remains. Still, most of Nassau's undeveloped terrain is unstable lowland sand and the narrow greenways that defend the street grid from our few imprudent streams. These parks are great, but only represent a tiny minority of bird habitat. Any occasion to sample the birdlife somewhere else is great. The ability to bird there with frequency and purpose is worth celebrating. This satisfying and productive habit is called patch birding.

I never expected patch birding would be for me. When I wanted to see birds, I went somewhere where diversity is expected. After joining the workforce after college, I came across patch birding by necessity. I worked in an office near the giant concrete temple that is the Roosevelt Field Mall. A hairline of greenery marked the border of the greater mall footprint, widening around a sump hidden behind near the Stewart School. It was surrounded by pokeweed and Japanese knotweed growing right out of a gravel lot. There were a few older trees right along the sump, but otherwise it was intensely disturbed demi-forest, with many invasive plants and evidence of occasional garbage dumping and squatting. The shoebox ecosystem was isolated by some half-hearted, temporary fencing. After a few weeks of walking along the edge, I found there was access within, and I began a quick lunch-hour walking routine around the Stewart School Sump, every possible workday.

I began working in the early summer, so birding was originally a byproduct of a relaxing walk. I was not even eBirding many days. Fall migration brought a case for documentation, beginning with a Tennessee Warbler (they are a local migrant east of New York City). A group of Chipping Sparrows formed and eventually attracted a Clay-colored, and the overgrown lot miraculously had Lincoln's and Lark Sparrows and an Orange-crowned Warbler later in the season. In the winter, there were Fox Sparrows, and hundreds of Fish Crow would fly by, commuting to the dumpsters behind the food court. I encountered Killdeer, Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers, and a woodcock, all in or along the giant, decidedly dry parking lot. A kingfisher once tried hunting the tiny sump. Tent caterpillars brought in a locally-scarce Black-billed Cuckoo at eye level. A Monk Parakeet visited, and a Rusty Blackbird. There was an early Winter Wren the second September, and a Mourning Warbler, and a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. Many of these species I had only seen once or twice before in the

whole county. I encountered well over 100 species during my six seasons of visits.

In May, a stunning adult Red-headed Woodpecker enjoyed a particular dead tree in the nearby residential area. The bird left after a week, and another week later that same tree was cut to its base. The majority of my patch was also leveled shortly after I stopped working there. Tonight I happened to pass by it, and finally saw the first supports of the hotel that will cater to shopping enthusiasts and tired businesspeople with small rolling suitcases. I had known the hotel was coming since shortly after I began birding there. I had dreams of documenting endangered species on site to disrupt construction, or something to that effect, but the site had been purchased before I had even found it. My patch was an inevitable casualty.

Even though it was not rescued, my patch provided me many quiet hours and eBird with some nice, meaningful data. I was privileged to be able to see its true and surprising potential to shelter and feed birds throughout the whole year. Two or three random visits here would have likely turned up nothing of interest at all. I look forward to adopting a new patch someday, and hope everyone has the chance to find a place to survey routinely, like the Stewart School Sump.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON—SUMMER 2018

Michael F. Cooper

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June brought close to average temperatures throughout most of the state, while July and August were generally 3-5 degrees warmer than normal. Rainfall reports were more varied, with June generally slightly drier than normal and July and August wetter overall, especially in the eastern Regions. In Regions 8 and 10, the summer was characterized as being oppressively humid, and featured a heat wave at the beginning of July. Several Regions mentioned that fluctuating water levels through the summer tended to not coincide with shorebird migration, with water levels being too deep by the normal August peak of migration. The high water levels were a benefit to waterfowl, gallinules and coots, and several Regions mentioned good numbers for those species.

To that point, a pair of Trumpeter Swans in Iroquois NWR raised six young- the first confirmed breeding record for the Region. High counts were reported from Region 3, where they are expected. Common Gallinules were mentioned in Regions 2, 3 and 4. In Region 2, the Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area produced a high count of 296—a mind boggling number to this Region 10 birder who scrambles to get a glimpse whenever one turns up on a local pond! Improved visibility due to damage to cattails by muskrat activity apparently helped make them more findable. The Region 3 portion of

Montezuma turned up a peak count of 250—hard to imagine. Region 4, where they are much more unexpected, also had confirmed breeding.

Other marsh breeders mentioned favorably include Least and American Bittern in Region 1, Least Bittern in Region 5 and Pied-billed Grebe in Region 2, with up to 42 counted at Montezuma NWR. Dabbling ducks were considered to have done poorly in Region 2, with mixed results in Region 3. Lingering non-breeding waterfowl included Brant in Region 2, Long-tailed Duck in Regions 1, 2 and 3, White-winged Scoter in Region 2, and a Snow Goose in Region 5, and the usual long list in Region 10. Horned and Red-necked Grebes also turned up in small numbers in Regions 2 and 3, and in Region 2, numbers for Common and Red-throated Loons were thought to have been a little above normal and a little early in their re-appearance in August.

Sandhill Cranes continued their dance across the state, with breeding mentioned for Regions 2, 4 and 7, and additional reports from Regions 1, 3, 9 and 10—remarkable considering that the first confirmed breeding for the state occurred as recently as 2003.

Caspian Terns returned to breed for a second confirmed record at Buffalo Harbor in Region 1, but peaked at a disappointing 100 in Region 2. But the sight of a Bald Eagle flushing 168 Black Terns from a marsh in the Van Dyne Spoor area in Region 2 must have been quite spectacular! A Least Tern on East Spit at Braddock Bay provided only the fourth record for Region 2. In Region 10, 26 individual Arctic Terns were documented, a very large number. Laughing and Lesser Black-backed Gulls were scattered through several of the non-coastal Regions, where they are notable, and a count of 22 Lesser Black-backs on the annual Captree June Count, in southwestern Suffolk County on 9 June, was also significant. An adult Glaucous Gull was found at East Spit in Region 2 on 23 July. Four days later another was reported at Wilson Tuscarora State Park in Region 1, a distance of less than 60 miles as the Burgomaster flies. On Long Island, a large Laughing Gull colony was located on a marsh island in Great South Bay, just the second major colony found in the Region, although increased numbers in recent years hinted at its existence.

Region 10 also turned up some good shearwater flights visible from the beaches, even into the eastern end of the Long Island Sound. In most years, birds like Bridled Tern, White-faced Storm-Petrel and South Polar Skua would be the highlights of the offshore pelagic season, but check the Region 10 report for a taste of what else lurks out there.

Shorebird numbers were erratic, reflective of rainfall and drought conditions in different Regions and months during the period. In Region 2, for example, numbers were described as low early in the season when late spring migrants are expected, but picking up considerably by late July with decent numbers of southbound birds. Throughout the eight non-tidal Regions of the state, 33 species of shorebirds were reported—surely a respectable total. The highlight for breeding shorebirds surely must be a pair of Piping Plovers with four chicks in Oswego County in Region 5. A juvenile found in Jefferson

County was wearing a band acquired in Oswego County—was that one of these four? Another shorebird in trouble, Upland Sandpiper, was found in seven Regions, but nothing encouraging was said about them in any case. At Fort Edward in Region 8, the maximum reported was just two birds.

American Avocets were recorded from three Regions, including 26 at Westfield in Region 1 and three fly-bys photographed in Region 5. A Marbled Godwit was photographed at Barcelona Harbor in Region 1, the only one reported away from tidal Regions of the state, as was a Ruff in Region 3 at Montezuma and a Western Sandpiper in Region 7. Willets were found in five non-tidal Regions, including one flock of 11 in Region 1 and they bred at Marshlands Conservancy in Region 9, where a Western Willet was identified in early August. A Buff-breasted Sandpiper in Region 3 at Montezuma was the only one reported away from the coast. A Red-necked Phalarope was a nice find at Crown Point in Region 7. A Long-billed Dowitcher photographed in Region 8 was a great Regional rarity.

Interesting waders away from the tidal zones included multiple Little Blue Herons in Region 8 and Region 9, Snowy Egrets scattered across several Regions, and Yellow-crowned Night Herons in Regions 3, 5 and 8. A Cattle Egret at Montezuma in Region 3 was the only one recorded upstate.

Merlins were reported or suspected of breeding in Regions 1, 2, 4 and 5, solidifying their hold in areas of the state where they were unknown as breeders just a couple of decades ago. Likewise, Black Vultures are now found almost across the entire state, with the comment from Region 1 that they now occur year round in the Lewiston area. Bald Eagles and Peregrine Falcons continue their well-documented expansion throughout the state, while American Kestrels and Northern Harriers continue to trend in the opposite direction, going unreported across large swaths of the state. A Golden Eagle on 22 August was noteworthy for time of the year, as were two Rough-legged Hawks going by the Braddock Bay Hawk watch on 13 June, all in Region 2.

Owl reports may be as much a function of effort as species' presence, but a Barn Owl in Steuben County in Region 3 was notable. Snowy Owls lingered into early June in Region 6 and to 1 July in Region 10. A Eurasian Collared Dove in Region 2 was the only report of this invasive, which surprisingly has spared New York State from its continent-wide expansions. A female Spruce Grouse with five chicks in Region 7 is exciting news for birders around the state who still have hopes of seeing this "grail" bird. Cuckoos of both species were reported widely, but only in Region 6 were numbers thought to be notable. A Chuck-will's-widow in Warren County, Region 8 lingered into early July. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were widely reported and mentioned as doing well in several Regions. Clinton County in Region 7 recorded its first nesting record for Red-bellied Woodpecker, a pair feeding young. Just two Black-backed Woodpeckers were reported state-wide, one each in Regions 5 and 7.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was reported from every Region and Olive-sided and Acadian nearly so. Three Canada Jays reported in Region 5 were the only

ones mentioned statewide. Two Fish Crows were detected in Watertown, Region 6, after an absence of several years. High counts for swallows were topped by an impressive 2425 at Hamlin Beach in Region 2 in early July. Following the pattern of few reports of boreal specialties, Boreal Chickadee was mentioned only once, that in Region 7. A maximum count of 23 Sedge Wrens at Fort Drum led an impressive Region 6 total of 33 birds. They also returned to Region 8 after a six year absence.

Cedar Waxwings were reported in good numbers, with a maximum of 305 at Hamlin Beach in Region 2. Red Crossbills were widely reported, but generally in small numbers. White-winged Crossbill was reported only from Region 7, and Evening Grosbeak from Region 7 and 8.

Grassland species seem to be doing well in protected grassland areas. Clay-colored Sparrows continue to establish themselves as part of the state's avifauna, with good numbers reported from Region 1 at four different locations, and a max of 24 at Fort Drum in Region 6. Overall, they were reported from six upstate Regions. Grasshopper and Savannah Sparrows were likewise widely reported, and two different Henslow's Sparrows in Region 2 were surprising. Henslow's returned to the Shawangunk Grasslands in Region 9, this time a pair observed and suspected of breeding. Dickcissel apparently did not repeat from last year in the 'gunks, but was found in the Orange County Black Dirt region in July and August. Region 10's grassland birds—Grasshopper and Vesper Sparrows, Horned Larks and E. Meadowlarks—continue to hang on in the relict patches of habitat left to them, and were reported only in small numbers. Back in Region 2, a Western Meadowlark delighted birders through the reporting period. The grasslands there also produced Bobolink counts of up to 100 birds, and this species was widely reported from upstate Regions.

Away from the grasslands, the picture for passerines was more mixed. Warblers were widely reported as migrants, and there were some encouraging comments when it came to breeding success, especially for those generally thought of as southern breeders. Prothonotaries were well represented in Region 5 and elsewhere, and seven Hooded Warblers was a good one day total in Region 4. 31 Cerulean Warblers was a good one day count at Howland Island in Region 4—this is, of course, a species of great concern here in New York and throughout its range. Another warbler in trouble, Golden-winged, generated quite a few comments, none of them good. In Region 6, they continue to lose ground to Blue-winged Warbler. Hybrids were reported from at least seven Regions. Yellow-throated Warbler returned to Region 10's Bayard Cutting Arboretum for an eighth year. A record early Connecticut Warbler was banded on 25 August in Region 2. Another at Sapsucker Woods in Region 3 was a rare find. Yellow-breasted Chats in Regions 3, 5 and 9 were unexpected rarities, with breeding suspected in Region 9. Hopefully early flights of Red-breasted Nuthatch, Purple Finch and Myrtle Warblers in Region 10 were harbingers of a fall or winter finch flight rather than a reflection of a poor breeding season as reported further north in the state.

A Black-headed X Rose-breasted Grosbeak was photographed at a feeder in Steuben County, Region 3. In Region 1, a male Summer Tanager was photographed and represents the second summer record for the Region.

I encourage everyone to read through the Regional reports—there are so many gems of information buried within. For example, you may have a tough time finding cuckoos, but birders in Region 5 have found that this is not a problem for everyone. Check that Region's report for details on a new method for censusing cuckoos and maybe Least Bitterns as well. Check Region 8 for a very detailed and very discouraging assessment of the breeding season at one Saratoga County location. Hopefully some of the poor numbers may reflect local or temporary conditions. Hummingbirds, for example, seem to have fared better elsewhere in the state than at this location.

And, especially for those of us who have been doing this for a while, I point you to the Region 2 report from Robert Spahn. Maybe I'm reading my own frustration into his words, but I was kind of entertained by his comments while trying to deal with the new sequence of species that the Regional editors have to adjust to. I can almost convince myself that a grouping titled "Rails to Tropicbirds" make sense, but then I scroll around to see "Loons to Parrots" and "Waterfowl to Hummingbirds", and, Robert, I feel your pain.

Finally, while many of us may think that lounging on a sailboat in Long Lake on a late summer afternoon sounds idyllic, the fact that a Brown Booby actually did this while posing for photos and video surely makes this sulid a contender for Bird of the Season. Another contender comes from Region 9, the Anhinga which put in a couple of appearances, allowing a few lucky birders to see this fourth state record. Two outstanding pelagic species from Region 10 warrant consideration, but considering their "limited engagement" and the need for NYSARC review, I think the nod has to go to the Region 9 Roseate Spoonbill which, after remaining tantalizingly close to the New York, New Jersey state border, eventually made a few forays into the Orange County side of the Wallkill River NWR to scoop up the BOTS Award. With that one in the books, who knows what next summer might bring.



REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

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June 2018 was pleasant. The mean temperature was 67.2°F, 0.9° above average. Rain was light until later in the month, with a monthly total of 2.82" at the Buffalo airport, 0.84" below average. July was warm and mostly dry, with an average temperature of 74.4°, 3.3° above normal. Rainfall at Buffalo was 2.15",

1.08" below average. The very warm weather continued through August, with the mean temperature at 72.8°, 3.2° above normal. There was 3.62" of rain, 0.36" above average. Weather data excerpted from National Weather Service *Monthly Weather Summary* for Buffalo.

Among notable breeding reports, two **Trumpeter Swans** at Cayuga Pool at Iroquois NWR raised six young and provided the first confirmed breeding record for Region 1. **Caspian Terns** again bred in Buffalo Harbor following last year's first confirmed Regional breeding. **Black Vultures** were again sighted in the Lewiston area consistent with recent summers; however, there is no confirmed breeding evidence yet.

The less common and/or declining breeding species typically tracked in this summer season report were found mostly in their previously documented breeding areas. **Upland Sandpipers** were at Tillman Road WMA again, plus a mid-July report at Iroquois NWR and a nocturnal flyover in August. **Common Nighthawk** was only reported in Buffalo before late summer migrants arrived by mid-August. **Sandhill Cranes** were present in Iroquois NWR, although I'm not aware of confirmed breeding this year. **Merlins** bred at several locations, which has become the new normal. **Sedge Wrens** were at three locations. **Clay-colored Sparrows** were at four locations, all near Lake Ontario. **Prothonotary Warblers** were at Tonawanda WMA as usual, but nowhere else. It will be interesting to see how these species will fare in the third NYS Breeding Bird Atlas that is approaching in less than two years.

Summer shorebirding was decent, with most highlights coming from along Lake Erie. The biggest highlights included a Regional maximum of **26 American Avocets** at Westfield on 15 July and a **Marbled Godwit** at Barcelona Harbor on 19 August; both were observed and photographed by Gale VerHague. There were four **Willet** reports, including a group of 11 at Brant on 5 August. **Whimbrel** were reported from three locations. Two to three **Red Knots** were found at Dunkirk Harbor 22-23 July, while another was found at Buffalo Harbor in late August. **Sanderlings** were reported in higher numbers than usual, which may have been the result of reportedly poor breeding for most shorebird species in the arctic.

Joel Strong was surprised to find an adult **Glaucous Gull** at Wilson Pier on 27 July, representing the first July record. A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at Olcott on 11 June was notable but becoming consistent with more frequent summer reports. There were two **Black Tern** sightings in August, the only reports away from Iroquois NWR and vicinity which is the lone breeding area.

There was a good showing for both **Least Bittern** and **American Bittern**, a continuation from May. Dick Collins found a **Snowy Egret** at Tiff NP in June and then Kevin Rybczynski found one at Times Beach NP three weeks later. There was likely one bird given that there were also sightings this summer along the Ontario side of the Niagara River.

Diving duck reports included Redhead at three locations and **Ring-necked Duck** at two locations, with lone sightings of Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, and

Bufflehead. Long-tailed Duck continued from spring on Lake Ontario until at least 7 June.

Late summer or “fall” migration for passerines was well reported but without notable concentrations or rare species. Seven **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** reports in August were more than usual for this species. A **“Brewster’s” Warbler** was identified in late August; perhaps more notable in that we went through another summer without any Golden-winged Warbler reports, though I’m not sure if anyone is really searching for this species. Hopefully there will be some out there to be discovered when atlas work starts in a few years. It was notable that Purple Martins did not congregate at the Grass Island roost in late summer this year.

A male **Summer Tanager** photographed by Kris and Mike Tripi in their yard in Rushford, Cattaraugus County on 20 June was the second summer record for this species. Both records have occurred in recent years, so it will be interesting to see if reports of this more southerly species will occur more regularly in the years ahead.

CONTRIBUTORS

Sue Barth, Don Bemont, Jim Berry, Dick Collins (DCo), Gordon Crock, David Crowe, Doug Daniels, Willie D’Anna, Joanne Goetz, Andy Guthrie, Christina Hoh, Alec Humann, Michelle Jett, Tim Lenz, Celeste Morien, Richard & Dorothy Rosche, Kevin Rybczynski, Debbie Sharon (DeS), Dominic Sherony (DoS), Tom Simmons, Joel Strong, Aerin Tedesco, Kris & Mike Tripi, Gale VerHague, Peter Yoerg.

ABBREVIATIONS

AISP – Allegany SP, CATT; **AmSP** – Amherst SP, ERIE; **BeSP** – Beaver I SP, ERIE; **BufH** – Buffalo Harbor, ERIE; **BuSP** – Buckhorn I, SP ERIE; **BWWTP** – Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant, GENE; **ChauL** – Chautauqua L, CHAU; **CSWMA** – Conewango Swamp WMA, CHAU; **DH** – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; **FNSP** – Fort Niagara SP, NIAG; **GHSP** – Golden Hill SP, NIAG; **INWR** – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; **JAS** – Jamestown Audubon Sanctuary, CHAU; **LBSP** – Lakeside Beach SP, ORLE; **NF** – Niagara Falls, NIAG; **NFSP** – Niagara Falls SP, NIAG; **NR** – Niagara R; **OOWMA** – Oak Orchard WMA, ORLE/GENE; **PB** – Point Breeze, ORLE; **TBNP** – Times Beach NP, ERIE; **Tift NP** – Tift Nature Preserve, Buffalo, ERIE; **TRWMA** – Tillman Road WMA, ERIE; **TWMA** – Tonawanda WMA, GENE/NIAG; **WFWMA** – Watts Flats WMA, CHAU; **WoBSP** – Woodlawn Beach SP, ERIE; **WTSP** – Wilson-Tuscarora SP, NIAG.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Mute Swan: Ellery ChauL 22 Jun; DH 23 Jun thru; 6 Wilson NIAG 29 Jul; max 11 WTSP 20 Aug; 6 Carlton ORLE 27 Aug.

Trumpeter Swan: 2 ad + 6 yg INWR 15 Jun thru; first confirmed nesting in Reg.

Wood Duck: max 82 INWR 9 Jun.

Blue-winged Teal: arr Tift NP 10 Jul; 2 BuSP 19 Jul; max 50 TWMA 30 Aug.

N. Shoveler: TBNP 3 Jun; Hamburg ERIE 21 Jun; 2 BWWTP 5, 12 Jul; Buffalo NR 30 Aug; only reports.

Gadwall: 3, 1 BWWTP 6 Jun, 12 Jul; 2 Tift NP 12 Aug; only reports.

Am. Wigeon: Amherst ERIE 6 Jun; LBSP 17 Jul; Grand Island NR 16 Aug; only reports.

Am. Black Duck: max 3 Barcelona CHAU 28 Jul; 2 Ellery ChauL 31 Aug.

N. Pintail: max 2 TWMA 30 Aug.
Green-winged Teal: 2, 4 INWR 24 Jun, 7 Jul; max 8 LBSP 31 Aug.
Redhead: 2, 1 BWWT 13 Jun, 12 Jul; 2 BufH 31 Jul; 2 Leon CATT 24 Aug, unusual loc.
Ring-necked Duck: INWR 3, 9 Jun; N Collins ERIE 5 Aug (SB); only reports.
Greater Scaup: Buffalo NR 31 Aug, only report.
Lesser Scaup: BWWT 21 Jul, only report.
Long-tailed Duck: last PB 7 Jun (CM).
Bufflehead: INWR 9 Jun (AG), only report.
Com. Merganser: max 41 DH 8 Aug.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 13 FNSP 3 Jun; Barcelona CHAU 23 Jun, 29 Aug.
Ruddy Duck: 30, 24, 12 BWWT 6 Jun, 5 Jul, 4 Aug, reg loc in sum; 3 INWR 7 Jun.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 21 INWR 31 Aug.
Com. Nighthawk: 1, 1, 8 Buffalo ERIE 24 Jun, 22 Jul, 19 Aug; arr 2 Ellery CHAU 17 Aug; five other Aug reps.
Chimney Swift: max 125 NF 10 Aug.

RAILS - LARIDS

Virginia Rail: Hanging Bog WMA ALLE 1, 26 Jun; 2 N Harmony CHAU, 2 CSWMA 16 Jun; JAS 5 Jul; 2, 5 Kiantone CHAU 28 Jul, 11 Aug; 6 TBNP 29 Jul; only reports away from INWR and vicinity.
Sora: CSWMA 18, 24 Jun; 4 Kiantone CHAU 28 Jul; only reports away from INWR and vicinity.
Am. Coot: max 10 INWR 20 Jun; DH 14-29 Jul; BuSP 29 Jul.
Com. Gallinule: max 30 INWR 31 Aug.
Sandhill Crane: 3, 4, 5 INWR 24 Jun, 27 Jul, 19 Aug; max 9 Shelby ORLE 18 Aug (DeS).
Am. Avocet: 26 Westfield CHAU 15 Jul (GV, ph!), Reg max, only report.
Black-bellied Plover: last Yates ORLE 4 Jun; arr 2, 3 Somerset NIAG 1, 8 Aug; Ridgeway NIAG 3 Aug; BufH 12 Aug.
Am. Golden-Plover: arr 3 Wellsville ALLE 19 Aug (DC).
Semipalmated Plover: arr DH 22 Jul; max 42 TWMA 5 Aug.
Killdeer: max 82 Oakfield GENE 9 Aug.
Upland Sandpiper: 3 TRWMA 20 Jun; INWR 18 Jul; Grand Island ERIE 8 Aug (AH), nocturnal migrant.
Whimbrel: arr BWWT 21 Jul; 3 DH 22 Jul; max 4 Olcott NIAG 25 Jul; only reports.
MARBLED GODWIT (R1): Barcelona CHAU 19 Aug (GV, ph!), rare.

Ruddy Turnstone: arr 1, 5 DH 22, 23 Jul; 2 LBSP 23 Jul; Wilson NIAG 27 Jul, 7 Aug; Olcott NIAG 31 Jul; Barcelona CHAU 11 Aug; 2 PB 15 Aug; 3 Buffalo NR 30 Aug.
Red Knot: arr 2, 3 DH 22, 23 Jul (GV); BufH 28-31 Aug (PY); only reports.
Stilt Sandpiper: arr LBSP 23 Jul; max 3 John White WMA GENE 5 Aug.
Sanderling: arr BWWT 21 Jul; 46, 36 DH 22 Jul, 18 Aug; 48 WoBSP 27 Jul; max 55 LBSP 23 Jul (DB, CM); 12 Barcelona CHAU 19 Aug; higher numbers than usual.
Dunlin: PB 9 Jun; last Wilson NIAG 24 Jun (AG).
Baird's Sandpiper: arr 1, 1 BufH 19, 31 Aug; only reports.
Least Sandpiper: arr LBSP 8 Jul; max 62 TWMA 5 Aug.
White-rumped Sandpiper: arr BufH 19 Aug; Wilson NIAG 21 Aug; Buffalo ERIE 25-30 Aug.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 3 TWMA & 3 Ischua CATT 5 Aug; max 7 Keeney Swamp SF ALLE 20 Aug.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: last PB 9 Jun; arr PB 12 Jul; max 255 LBSP 23 Jul (DB, CM); 44 TWMA.
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr LBSP & Pomfret CHAU 17 Jul; max 3 DH 23 Jul.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr 3 Jamestown CHAU & 2 Royalton NIAG 10 Jul; max 10 Franklinville CATT 5 Aug.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 13 INWR 7 Jul; max 20 TWMA 30 Aug.
Willet: arr DH 9 Jul, early; Barcelona CHAU 24 Jul; max 11 Brant ERIE 5 Aug (AT, MJ); TWMA 6 Aug.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr LBSP 17 Jul; max 14 TWMA 30 Aug.
Bonaparte's Gull: PB 24 Jun; Buffalo NR 26 Jun; TWMA 14 Jul; max 40 NF 25 Aug.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: Olcott NIAG 11 Jun (WD), only report.
GLAUCOUS GULL: ad Wilson NIAG 27 Jul (JS, ph!), first Jul record.
Caspian Tern: 230 BufH 2 Jun, nested for 2nd year in a row; 40 Ellery ChauL 15 Jul.
Black Tern: max 30 INWR 26 Jun; N Collins ERIE 5 Aug (SB); BeSP 23 Aug.
Com. Tern: max 100 BufH 4 Jul.

LOONS - PARROTS

Com. Loon: 5 PB 9 Jun; arr Wilson NIAG 23 Aug.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 750 BufH 2 Jun; 500 NF 13 Jul.

Am. Bittern: 3 INWR 9, 15 Jun; JAS 5 Jul; Cuba ALLE 13 Jul (DC); TBNP 27 Jul; TWMA 5 Aug; good showing.

Least Bittern: 2 INWR 6, 19 Jun; N Harmony CHAU 16 Jun (TL); max 5 Tift NP 16 Jun; 2, 3, 3 TBNP 30 Jul, 2, 25 Aug; Dayton Gravel Ponds CATT 28 Jul (JG); good showing.

Great Egret: 20 INWR 4 Jun; Sinclairville CHAU 25 Jun; max 42 TWMA 5 Aug.

SNOWY EGRET: Tift NP 19 Jun (DCo); TBNP 11 Jul (KR); probably same bird that was also seen along Niagara R on Canadian side.

Black Vulture: Lewiston NIAG 10, 27 Jul, year round resident at this loc.

Osprey: well reported from known breeding locs.

Bald Eagle: well reported from known breeding locs; max 6 DH 23 Aug.

Broad-winged Hawk: GHSP 24, 26 Aug, unusual loc.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 3 TBNP 3 Jun; max 5 FNSP 11 Jun; Chautauqua CHAU 4 Jul; Buffalo ERIE 5 Jul; 3 N Tonawanda NIAG 8 Jul; Westfield CHAU 15 Jul; 4 LBSP 29 Jul; 4 Sheridan CHAU 12 Aug.

Merlin: 2 ad + y, 3 Buffalo ERIE 19 Jun, 29 Jul (PY); Jamestown CHAU 29 Jun (JB); Lakewood CHAU 10, 16 Jul (TS); reps multi loc Aug, likely wanderers or migr.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr TBNP 19 Aug; Carlton Hill MUA WYOM 19, 30 Aug.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last Wilson NIAG 3 Jun; arr 1, 2 Hanging Bog WMA ALLE 7, 24 Aug; 1, 2 TBNP 19, 24 Aug; six oth Aug reps; good showing.

Acadian Flycatcher: last Gaines ORLE 16 Aug.

E. Kingbird: 17 LBSP 17 Aug; max 30 TWMA 27 Aug.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr TBNP 19 Aug.

Purple Martin: 163, 167 BWWT 24 Jun, 1 Jul; max 235 Shelby ORLE 20 Jun; 170 OOWMA 12 Jul.

Tree Swallow: max 300 TWMA 5 Aug.

Cliff Swallow: max 50 Dayton Gravel Ponds CATT 28 Jul.

Barn Swallow: max 100 DH 8 Aug.

Sedge Wren: 1, 2 Yates ORLE 4, 8 Jul (WD, JS, DD, DoS); Leon CATT 11 Jul (R&DR); John White WMA 18 Jul (CH); only reports.

Swainson's Thrush: last 2 Buffalo ERIE & INWR 9 Jun; arr Wilson NIAG 16 Aug.

Purple Finch: max 9 Fredonia CHAU 7 Aug.

Pine Siskin: rep 8 loc Jun; Wilson NIAG 17 Jul, 11, 14 Aug (WD).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Clay-colored Sparrow: 3, 2 Olcott NIAG 6 Jun, 5 Jul; Somerset NIAG 1, 8 Jul; 2 LBSP 4 Jul; 2 Carlton ORLE 6 Jul; becoming more regular along L Ontario.

Vesper Sparrow: 2 Bethany GENE 2 Jun; Waterport ORLE 8 Jun; Yates ORLE 4 Jul; Somerset NIAG 13 Jul; Farmersville CATT 23 Jul; only reports.

Grasshopper Sparrow: rep9 loc; max 4 Dunkirk Airport CHAU 20 Jul.

White-throated Sparrow: 2 Harmony CHAU 17 Jun (TL); Carlton Hill MUA WYOM 8 Jul; Forestville CHAU 13 Aug; only reps away from ALLE, CATT.

Bobolink: max 80 INWR 9 Aug; 75 Ischua CATT 31 Aug.

Orchard Oriole: rep 15 loc Jun, good showing; 2 AISP 2 Jun; CSWMA 3 Jun; Wellsville ALLE 12 Jun; 2 JAS 16 Jul; last Barcelona CHAU 19 Aug.

Com. Grackle: max 1050 Lewiston Res NIAG 11 Aug.

Ovenbird: arr TBNP 8 Aug.

Louisiana Waterthrush: rep only 4 loc.

N. Waterthrush: arr AmSP 14 Aug.

Golden-winged Warbler: no reports.

“Brewster’s” Warbler: GHSP 26 Aug (WD), only report.

Black-and-white Warbler: Almond ALLE 4, 11 Jun; Alfred ALLE 9 Jun; Willing ALLE 27, 28 Jul; arr Buffalo ERIE 13 Aug.

Prothonotary Warbler: 3 TWMA 9 Jun; reg breeding loc.

Tennessee Warbler: arr Orchard Park ERIE 13 Aug.

Nashville Warbler: WFWMA 11 Jun; Hanging Bog WMA ALLE 26 Jul; arr DH 12 Aug.

Mourning Warbler: arr Tift NP 15 Aug.

Cape May Warbler: arr Wilson NIAG 12 Aug; max 6 FNSP 22 Aug.

Cerulean Warbler: 2 INWR 4, 30 Jun; AISP 24 Jun; last Royalton NIAG 8 Aug.

N. Parula: max 4 AISP 2, 23-30 Jun; Hanging Bog WMA ALLE 12 Jun; Franklin Gulf CP ERIE 23 Jun (GC), unusual loc; arr Ellery CHAU 19 Aug.

Magnolia Warbler: arr 2 WoBSP 19 Aug.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Wilson NIAG 9 Aug.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr NF 14 Aug.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr WoBSP 17 Aug.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr 2 Hanging Bog WMA
ALLE 25 Aug.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr NFSP &
Tift NP 25 Aug.
Palm Warbler: arr TWMA 30 Aug
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr WoBSP 12
Aug.
Prairie Warbler: rep 5 locations.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr TBNP 19
Aug.
Canada Warbler: last Wilson NIAG 3 Jun;
max 5 Keeney Swamp SF ALLE 15 Jun; arr
AmSP 13 Aug.
Wilson's Warbler: arr TBNP 23 Aug.
SUMMER TANAGER: Rushford ALLE 20
Jun (K&MT, ph!), unexpected; 2nd summer
record.

REGION 2—GENESEE

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Summer 2018 was another typical summer, with the tail end of spring migration and the start of fall migration both a bit weak. A major element of this summer's report is the change to the most recent AOS checklist order for this report and going forward. There has been some significant shifting of the relative placement of some bird families and species over the past two years. It will take some effort and time to become comfortable with trying to summarize all coherently after many years of relatively stable order. Please be patient.

It began with a pleasant June for the first four weeks, followed by a couple of oppressive days leading into a hot July. Temperatures averaged 67.7°F, 1.4° above normal. There was only one record, a high low on the 10th. Precipitation totaled 2.22", 1.12" below normal. Lake Ontario levels were back to just a bit above normal, a much appreciated change from last year's record highs. July continued on hot and dry, with browning vegetation, especially west of Rochester. A pattern change on about 21 July brought cooler temperatures and drought-relieving rains. Rochester was at the NW corner of an area between an upper level low in the Ohio Valley and a high over Western Atlantic pumping moisture into areas east with persistent rainfall and flooding. Temperatures averaged 75.2°, 4.4° above normal for the sixth warmest July on record, and precipitation totaled 3.20", only 0.13" below normal. There were 11 days with the highs >90°, the most since 1955. August was a typical hot and humid summer month, with periodic relief from cold fronts with showers. Temperatures averaged 73.6°, 4.3° above normal for the eighth warmest August on record, and precipitation totaled 2.67", 0.80" below normal. But there were heavier rains to our south and east on the 8th and on the 14th 2-4" fell on the metro area, but only 0.84" was officially recorded.

Generally, weather was good for birds and birding. eBird reports were up substantially in June and August and the total number of lines of records for the

three months were: 32,654; 27,285; and 23,712, respectively. Species totals were up and down vs. last year, but all were up over their 10-year averages. Nearly all expected species were reported each month. There were few real rarities, but some good finds nonetheless. In July, the rainfall boundary brought some great shorebird numbers and a few rarer birds to the area from just west of Rochester on east along the south shore of Lake Ontario. In August, passerine banding, and migration in general, seemed off to a slow start.

Moving on, we start with the familiar waterfowl. This family was weak in all three months, with low numbers for the usual breeding species and few surprises. Interesting notes included: a Brant to 4 June; up to 60 Mute Swans in the Town of Greece; Redhead, Lesser Scaup, White-winged Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, Red-breasted Merganser, and Ruddy Duck all present into June; American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, and Green-winged Teal at the East Spit area of Braddock Bay in July; single Redhead, White-winged Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, and Red-breasted Merganser along the south shore of Lake Ontario in July; and “fall” arrivals of Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Long-tailed Duck, and Red-breasted Merganser in August. Red-necked Grebe was found at the late dates of 5 and 19 June and then arriving on 23 August, a day before the first Horned Grebe, with all these grebe reports at Hamlin Beach SP by Andy Guthrie. A peak of 42 Pied-billed Grebes in the Van Dyne Spoor area of the Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area (NMWMA) on 8 August is a good count.

Our first block of species in an unfamiliar position starts with pigeons and doves, with a report of a Eurasian Collared-Dove, with photo, from Pittsford, a Rochester suburb, by Steve Taylor on 8 July. Next, the best nightjar records were Common Nighthawk on 2 June, then the first of fall migration with two in Honeoye Falls on 15 August. Good Chimney Swift numbers were 300 on 27 July and 230 on 19 August from the usual York Central School chimney in Greiggsville and 150 at the Dalton Elementary School on 20 and 21 August, both sites in Livingston County. Next, there were 462 lines of records in eBird for Ruby-throated Hummingbird in August. But 314 of these were for only 13 observers with 10-39 reports each for their feeders, and another 60 lines were from 13 more observers with 3-8 reports, each from one location. This new grouping ends with the usual few rail records, then some great numbers for Common Gallinule from the Van Dyne Spoor area, where cattails had died off over a large area leaving muskrat houses and the birds visible. Per DEC, the die-off was likely due to the effects from winter muskrat activity in the marsh. There was a peak count of 296 on 18 August. Finally, Sandhill Cranes were noted in small numbers all season in the usual areas in the NMWMA and in the Town of Richmond, Ontario County. Only two young were photographed with adults near Crusoe Lake, Town of Savannah in late July by Bill Gillette.

This season's shorebirds provided some excitement, with nine expected species into early to mid June. Numbers were generally low, and the more unusual reports were Semipalmated Plover to 19 June, Sanderling (often missed

in spring) arriving on 5 June with a last spring record on 10 June, and a late Dunlin on 9 June. Least Sandpiper then became the first fall arrival on 25 June. July brought 20 species of shorebirds at mostly typical arrival dates. However, the weather shift on 21 July and the rain boundary line after that produced peak counts not seen here in years, including: 111 Whimbrel on 26 July at Sodus Point; 21 Red Knot on 22 July, 255 Sanderling, a Regional record high, on 23 July, and 250 Semipalmated Sandpipers on 23 July, all at the new barrier beach area of the East Spit of Braddock Bay; and many other records and counts that will be noted in the species section to follow. In August, reports continued from the East Spit barrier beach, and, with other reports from piers and beaches along the Lake Ontario shore, produced 24 species for the month. Most numbers were low in August, with the only notable high count 50 Sanderlings on 21 August at Sodus Point. The most notable species for August were Upland Sandpiper, now scarce except in migration, Red Knot continuing, and a Wilson's Phalarope on 21 August at Sodus Point.

Among the gulls, an adult Laughing Gull on 6 June passing Hamlin Beach and spotted by Andy Guthrie is an irregular rarity, but an adult Glaucous Gull found and photographed by Robert Buckert at the East Spit on 23 July was very rare. Otherwise the continuing trend of Lesser Black-backed Gull each month was most noteworthy. The Region's fourth **Least Tern** was found at the East Spit by Jim Miles and Laurie Mattle on 8 July and was seen and photographed by at least six others that day, then, likely the same individual was seen briefly by Lynn Bergmeyer on 3 August. Caspian Terns were present throughout the season, with a peak around 100 birds each month; those numbers are low for the July-August period, and juveniles were scarce. A real surprise was at the Van Dyne Spoor area on 14 July, when a Bald Eagle flushed the Black Terns in the marsh and Chris Wood, there with 19 other observers from Ithaca, counted 168, certainly a record high for the Region for recent years. A couple of single Black Terns at Braddock Bay in August was considered noteworthy. A maximum count of 24 Common Terns passing Hamlin Beach on 30 July is a low peak.

In the new grouping including loons through waders, we have four Red-throated Loons to 20 June and 20 Common Loons on 3 June, a bit high for the dates, then both loons reported in July, and finally a first fall Red-throated Loon on 23 August and six Common Loons on 31 August, both early for fall. Double-crested Cormorant numbers reported seemed low for the apparent numbers around Irondequoit Bay, with peak counts of about 100 until a maximum of 430 were recorded passing Hamlin Beach on 31 August. There were no unusual heron or egret reports for the season, only a few Black-crowned Night-Herons in unexpected locations.

Putting the vultures back on top of the raptors, we have Black Vulture in June at the Braddock Bay hawkwatch and Letchworth SP and in July still in Letchworth. There was also a good count of 54 Turkey Vultures in Letchworth. Though the official hawkwatch had ended, observers on 13 June had 29 Bald Eagles, 35 Broad-winged Hawks, and a late two Rough-legged Hawks. At the

other end of the season, again no official hawkwatch, but Dave Tetlow reported good Red-tailed Hawk numbers in early August, and Mike Tetlow reported a peak count of 578 on 28 August. No Northern Goshawks and only a few Red-shouldered Hawks were reported. On 22 August, Kim Hartquist spotted a Golden Eagle over the Plank and Five Mile Line intersection in the Town of Penfield. There were no owl or woodpecker reports of special interest this season. So we end this section with note of Merlin and Peregrine Falcon reports fairly low all season, though increasing in August. The only likely nesting Merlin notes came from Geneseo. The Rochester Peregrine Falcons fledged three young in the 15-20 June period, and all were still present in the general area through July.

Finally the passerines. With Olive-sided Flycatchers relatively scarce now, it was good to see three records into June, with the latest 19 June, and then a few fall arrivals scattered through August and across the Region. Looking at the end of the spring, we have most of the usual late migrants banded to typical dates, though Philadelphia Vireo, Gray-cheeked Thrush, and Bay-breasted Warbler were all missed both in banding and even in reporting. Generally numbers were low and departure dates typical in June. Rarer breeding species noted were: Prothonotary Warbler, which was also reported in July and to 10 August from the usual Armitage Road area in the NMWMA; Prairie Warbler from the usual areas south of Harriett Hollister Spencer SRA in Ontario County; and Clay-colored Sparrow again at known sites and on into July. A surprise in June was **Henslow's Sparrow**, first reported at Beatty Point in the town of Greece on 5 June by Michelle Gianvecchio and seen and photographed or recorded through 2 August by many, then another found by Mike Wasilco and Christina Hoh in the Nations Road IBA on 21 June. Both were found during planned survey work. The rare **Western Meadowlark** on Armitage Road was again reported on 8 and 9 August. Essentially all expected passerines were reported in both July and August. In July, low-level banding efforts at BBBO detected a few surprises: a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher also photographed on 26 July; Swainson's Thrushes on 8, 22, and 28 July, with the 22 July bird recaptured on 23 July; Winter Wren on 30 July; Tennessee Warbler on 22 and 26 July; and Mourning Warbler on 16 July. Also in July, there were at least some decent swallow counts, though not to historically high numbers, and of special note, 2425 Bank Swallows photographed and counted on Parking Lot #5 at Hamlin Beach SP by Dominic Sherony and Doug Daniels on 8 July. Once again Jim Adams continued his regular walks at Oatka Creek Park, and his notes included a bumper season for Carolina Wren and a likely breeding of Mourning Warbler, unusual for Monroe County. It was also apparently a good summer for Northern Mockingbird locally, with up to 20 individuals reported just in Kings Bend Park, Town of Pittsford in August. Wrapping up the season, both banding and birding seemed slow in August. A special treat was a Connecticut Warbler both banded and photographed on 28 August.

Another June surprise was a lone Red Crossbill reported by Andy Guthrie from Webster Park on 12 June. Locally there are quite a few very late spring records for winter finches found near the Lake Ontario shore. In future reports I will need to work on moving the finches to their new location between the pipits and Snow Bunting; old habits die slowly.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

B – after a number of individuals indicates banded; **BB** – Braddock Bay, MONR; **BB-ES** – East spit of Braddock Bay; **BBBO** – Braddock Bay Bird Observatory, off Manitou Beach Rd, MONR; **CLI** – Conesus Lake In, inc WMA marshes, LIVI; **DE** – Durand-Eastman P, Rochester, at Lake Ontario; **G** – T Greece, MONR; **H** – T of Hamlin, MONR; **HB** – Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; **HB-WE** – trails at west end of park; **HB-YC** – Yanty Creek area of HB; **HANA** – High Acres Nature Area, T Perinton, MONR; **IBO** –

Irondequoit Bay Outlet to Lake Ontario; **IB-S** – LaSalle Landing P and vicinity at S end of Irondequoit Bay; **ICW** – Island Cottage Woods, T Greece, MONR; **LSP** – Letchworth SP; **M** – Manitou, MONR; **M-OW** – Owl Woods area along Manitou Beach Rd west side of BB; **MAC** – Montezuma Audubon Center, T Savannah, WAYN; **NMWMA (MRM)** – Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area, Morgan Rd Marshes, WAYN; **NMWMA (VDS)** – Van Dyne Spoor area, WAYN; **OB** – Ontario Beach, Charlotte MONR; **PtB** – Point Breeze, ORLE; **SPT** – Sodus Pt, WAYN; **TCEA** – Twin Cedars Environmental Area, Avon DEC, LIVI.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Brant: BB-ES 3 Jun (DH, RN); last Summerville Pier 4 Jun (MGU).
Mute Swan: max 60 Buck Pond, Greece 5 Jun.
Trumpeter Swan: max 9 NMWMA (VDS) 10 Jun.
Wood Duck: max 40 Canadice L – S 17 Jun & NMWMA (VDS) 8 Jul.
Blue-winged Teal: HB 24 Jun, unusual loc for date; 12 BB-ES 28 Jul (RBU), unusual num & loc for date.
N. Shoveler: BB-ES 28-30 Jul & 1-2 BB-ES 2-25 Aug (mob), unusual loc for dates.
Gadwall: 3 HB 19 Jul, scarce in summer; arr BB-ES 15 Aug (RR), early.
Am. Wigeon: HANA 11 Jul & BB-ES 22 Jul & SPT 3 Aug, scarce in summer.
Mallard: 156 Greece 13 Jul; max 163 OB 7 Aug; good counts for dates.
Am. Black Duck: max 5 NMWMA (VDS) 10 Jun, very low max.
N. Pintail: arr 2 f HB 16 Aug (AGU), early.
Green-winged Teal: 2 HANA 17 Jun (MGU), unusual loc for date; BB-ES 23-28 Jul, 2 Aug (mob), scarce in summer.
Redhead: IBO 19-26 Jun, 3, 20 Jul & BB-ES 8 Jul, scarce in summer; arr BB-ES 25 Aug (GL, LK, RBU), early.
Ring-necked Duck: arr 4 CLI 4 Aug (RR), early.
Lesser Scaup: last IBO 3, 5 Jun (MGU); 2 Silver L 18 Jun (RSt), late.
White-winged Scoter: last 10 HB 6 Jun (AGU), late; HB 21 Jul (AGU), scarce in sum.
Long-tailed Duck: last PtB 7 Jun (CMo); HB-YC 3 Jul (AGU) & HB 31 Jul (AGU), scarce in sum; arr 1 f BB-ES 31 Aug.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 20 HB 3 Jun (AGU), late for number; BB-ES 8 Jul, 2-11 Aug (mob) & HB 1 Aug (R&SSp), scarce in sum.
Ruddy Duck: TCEA 27 Jun (MW), rare in sum.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 42 NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 8 Aug, good count.
Horned Grebe: arr HB 24 Aug (AGU), early.

Red-necked Grebe: last HB 5, 19 Jun (AGU), late; arr 5 HB 23 Aug (AGU), early.
EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: 1 Pittsford MONR 8 Jul (ST, ph), new loc.
Com. Nighthawk: 4 H 1 Jun (AGU); last 3 G (KGr) 2 Jun; arr Honeoye Falls 15 Aug (BCar).
Chimney Swift: max 300 York Central School, Greigsville LIVI 27 Jul (JK); 230 York Central School 19 Aug (JK); 150 Dalton Elementary School LIVI 20, 21 Aug (JGor).
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 462 lines in eBird many loc Aug, *intro*.

RAILS - LARIDS

Com. Gallinule: 200 NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 21 Jul (JMcG, LS); max 296 NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 18 Aug (DD), *intro*.
Am. Coot: max 55 NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 18 Aug.
Sandhill Crane: max 10 NMWMA (Armitage Rd) 9 Jun (MM); 2 T Richmond ONTA 15 Jun, 13, 14 Jul (LBr, BH, RSm); E Lakeshore Marshes WAYN 6 Jun (MGU).
Black-bellied Plover: last BB-ES 11 Jun; arr Jones Bridge Rd LIVI 13 Aug.
Am. Golden-Plover: arr 3 Wyoming Rd WYOM 18 Aug; no big counts.
Semipalmated Plover: last SPT 19 Jun; BB-ES 8 Jul.
Killdeer: max 75 Woods Rd WAYN 18 Aug, low max.
Upland Sandpiper: H 2, 6, 17, 25 Aug (AGU, BriM), now rare.
Whimbrel: arr 3 SPT 10 Jul (JWi); 10 Sodus Bay Lighthouse Pt 22 Jul (MGU); 11 SPT 26 Jul (DSh, MGU); 105 to max 111 SPT 26 Jul (JWi, LBe, RBU); 1-3 5 loc 14-31 Jul (14+ obs); 1 3 loc 6, 18, 20 Aug (DHo, JiM, JWi); 12 HB 18 Aug (AGU); unusually high numbers, *intro*.
Ruddy Turnstone: last 2 SPT 11 Jun; arr SPT 21 Jul; max 12 Summerville Pier 2 Aug (LBe).
Red Knot: arr 13 & max 21 BB-ES 22 Jul (TL; JiM, LMa); 1-7 ind 3 loc 23-29 Jul (20+ oth obs); 2 Summerville Pier 1 Aug (DH, CGI);

1-2 BB-ES 2-11, 27 Aug (mob); unusually high numbers.

Silt Sandpiper: arr 2 MAC 17 Jul.

Sanderling: arr IBO 5 Jun (JiM); last spring 2 BB-ES 10 Jun (JiM, LM), often missed in spring; arr fall 1-3 SPT 14 Jul (JWi); 100 & 150 SPT 22 Jul (MGU, JWi); 108 HB 22 Jul (AGU); 125 BB-ES 22 Jul TL); **max 255 BB-ES** 23 Jul (RBu), Reg record high; 84 rep, 1-47 ind many loc 16-31 Jul (mob); 50 SPT 21 Aug (JWi, W&MR); 103 rep, 1-24 ind Aug (mob); unprecedented numbers, intro.

Dunlin: last PtB 9 Jun (AGU), late; arr 4 Wyoming Rd WYOM 18 Aug (RSt).

Baird's Sandpiper: arr SPT 7 Aug.

Least Sandpiper: last 2 NMWMA (MRM) 10 Jun; arr NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 25 Jun (W&MR); max 40 NMWMA (MRM) 25 Jul, low max; 170 lines eBird many loc Jul.

White-rumped Sandpiper: arr BB-ES 29 Jul (5 obs).

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr NMWMA (Marten Tract) & SPT 17 Jul (MGU).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: last 2 BB-ES & 1 NMWMA (MRM) 10 Jun; arr 2 BB-ES 10 Jul; max 250 BB-ES 23 Jul (RBu), good count.

peep sp: max 115 BB-ES 22 Jul.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 3 BB-ES 8 Jul (14+ obs); max 13 BB-ES 24 Jul.

Long-billed Dowitcher: arr NMWMA (Marten Tract 17 Jul (MGU).

Solitary Sandpiper: arr 2 HANA 9 Jul.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Kings Bend P, Pittsford 5 Jul (J&VL).

Willet: SPT 14 Jul (JWi).

Greater Yellowlegs: last NMWMA (MRM) 4 Jun; arr 10 MAC 17 Jul.

Wilson's Phalarope: arr SPT 21 Aug (JWi, W&MR).

Bonaparte's Gull: present all summer, unusual; max 45 BB-ES 19 Aug (TL), low max.

LAUGHING GULL (R2): 1 ad HB 6 Jun (AGU).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: total ~13 at 4 loc 2-24 Jun (AGU, MGU, TL); max 8 HB 9 Jun (AGU); total 6 at 4 loc 3-28 Jul (4 obs); total 6 at 5 loc 3-22 Aug (7 obs); good numbers for summer.

GLAUCOUS GULL (R2): 1 ad BB-ES 23 Jul (RBu, ph), very rare mid-summer.

LEAST TERN: BB-ES 8 Jul (JiM, LMA, 16+oth obs), 4th Reg record; BB-ES 3 Aug (LBe), likely same ind?.

Caspian Tern: max 114 SPT 6 Jun; 92 BB-ES 24 Jul & 100 BB-ES 16 Aug, low-typical peaks for months, few juv.

Black Tern: NMWMA (VDS) 17, 29 Jun; max 168 NMWMA (VDS) 14 Jul (CW, shared w 19 oth obs) & 118 NMWMA (VDS) 19 Jul (MT), very high counts for recent years.

Com. Tern: max 50 HB 9 Jun (JF); present thru, unusual, usually a gap mid Jun – mid Jul..

LOONS - PARROTS

Red-throated Loon: dep 4 HB 20 Jun (AGU), late; HB 18 Jul (AGU), scarce mid-sum; HB 23 Aug (AGU), early.

Com. Loon: max 20 HB 3 Jun (AGU), late for so many; HB 2 Jul & 6 HB-YC 3 Jul (AGU); scarce mid-summer; arr 6 HB 31 Aug (AGU), early.

Double-crested Cormorant: counts to 100-125 thru 28 Jul; max 430 HB 31 Aug.

Am. Bittern: Basket Rd, Webster 8 Aug (JWi), unusual loc.

Great Blue Heron: max 60 NMWMA (VDS) 21 Jul, good count.

Great Egret: rep 1-9 many loc thru.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: North Ponds P, Webster 19 Jun (KMi); 1 juv HANA 5 Jul (DSH); Kings Bend P, Pittsford 22-26 Jul (GF, 5 oth obs); unusual locs;

BLACK VULTURE (R2): BB hawkwatch 13 Jun (MT); LSP 16 Jun (TBo); LSP 18 Jul (DMi, ph).

Turkey Vulture: max 60 HANA 10 Aug (AP).

Bald Eagle: max 29 BB hawkwatch 9 Jun (MT, ES); 11 BB hawkwatch 18 Jun (MGU); over 100 lines of eBird records each month, but only 2 oth counts >10.

N. Goshawk: no reports.

Red-shouldered Hawk: single reps Jun & Jul; total 16 migr 5 loc 3-25 Aug (5 obs).

Broad-winged Hawk: 35 BB hawkwatch 13 Jun (MT); 27 M – OW 6 Aug (DTe).

Red-tailed Hawk: 252 M – OW 5 Aug (DTe); 364 M – OW 6 Aug (DTe); max 578 BB hawkwatch 28 Aug (MT).

Rough-legged Hawk: last 2 BB hawkwatch 13 Jun (MT, ES), late.

Golden Eagle: Plank & Five mile line Rds, Webster (KH), rare in sum.

Red-headed Woodpecker: max 5 HB 20, 25 Aug (CGI, A&AN).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 15 HHSpenner SRA, ONTA 20 Jun (ST), typical of counts in breeding areas.

Merlin: Rt 256 Conesus LIVI 19 Jun (KC); SUNY Geneseo Cmpus 20 Jun (MW);

Chandler Rd Greenway, LIVI 13 Jul (JK); T Gates MONR 18 Jul (JWa); total 10 ind 8 loc 8-27 Aug; only nesting reports Geneseo.

Peregrine Falcon: total 4 ind 3 loc 4-25 Jun; total 8 ind 8 loc 3-25 Jul; total 13 ind 9 loc 5-30 Aug; 3 yng fledged Rochester 15-20 June, all still present in the general area thru July.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Highland P Rochester 6 Jun; Beatty Pt, Greece 15 Jun; last Ganondagon, T Victor 19 Jun, late; arr CLI 4 Aug (BeB); Jones Bridge Rd LIVI 19-25 Aug (JK, 3 oth obs); Beechwood SP 23-26 Aug (MGU, 5 oth obs); New Rd WYOM 25 Aug (DBea).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last 1B BBBO 12 Jun; 3B BBBO 15 Aug; total B 12 BBBO 15-30 Aug.

Acadian Flycatcher: max 7 Bergen Swamp (DBem, PMac, JR, RSp);

“Trail’s” Flycatcher: max 15 B BBBO 1 Jun; total B 6 BBBO 15-24 Aug, low.

Willow Flycatcher: max 18 Beatty Pt, Greece 12 Jun (RSp), good count.

Least Flycatcher: max 12 Honeoye L Inlet WMA 16 Jun (BH), good count; total B 8 BBBO 20-30 Aug.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr Brown Rd, T Wolcott WAYN 27 Aug.

Red-eyed Vireo: max 43 HHS Spencer SRA 8 Jun (R&SSp, T&PS); total B 18 BBBO 15-30 Aug.

Horned Lark: max 65 H 13 Aug.

Bank Swallow: max 2425 HB – Parking Lot #5 8 Jul (DSh, DD), ph, careful counts; 1600 2425 HB – Parking Lot #5 11 Jul (AGU); parking lot near Devil’s nose colony; no big counts of migr.

Barn Swallow: max 150 BB-ES 25 Aug, low max.

Winter Wren: total ~18 ind 13 loc Jun (15+ obs), good numbers; 1B BBBO 30 Jul, unusual loc for date.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: no reports.

Swainson’s Thrush: last 2 loc 3 Jun (7+ obs); 1B BBBO 8, 22, & 28 July, 22 July bird recap 23 July; arr HB – WE 16 Aug (RSp).

Hermit Thrush: arr M – OW 25 Aug (LK, GL).

Gray Catbird: max 28 Beatty Pt, Greece 17 Jun (AGU); total B 47 BBBO 15-30 Aug.

N. Mockingbird: max 20 Kings Bend P, Pittsford 2 Aug (RR), high count.

Cedar Waxwing: max 305 HB 5 Jun (AGU).

Am. Pipit: dep HB 7 Jun (AGU, ph), late.

Red Crossbill: WP 12 Jul (AGU), irreg in sum.

Pine Siskin: rep of 1-3 ind scattered across Reg thru.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS - CARDINALIDS

Clay-colored Sparrow: 1-3 Cook Rd, Hamlin 9, 12, 17 Jun, 4-14 Jul (sev obs); Ballantyne Rd, T Chili 3, 16, 18 Jun (sev obs).

Savannah Sparrow: max 35 Nations Rd survey 1 Jun (MW), good count.

Grasshopper Sparrow: max 8 Nations Rd survey 1 Jun (MW).

HENSLOW’S SPARROW (R2): 1-2 Beatty Pt, Greece 5-30 Jun, 2 Jul (MGI, mob, ph, aud); Nations Rd, Geneseo 21 Jun (MW, Cho); now rare, found on grassland surveys.

White-throated Sparrow: last near Newark WAYN 10 Jun (SBe), late

Bobolink: max 100 Livonia LIVI 18 Aug (TB), good count.

WESTERN MEADOWLARK: NMWMA (Armitage Rd) 4, 8, 9 Jul (CW, W&MR, ZS-W, RBo), still at original site.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 300 HB 31 Aug (RSp).

Ovenbird: migr Webster Arboretum 31 Aug.

N. Waterthrush: total B 6 BBBO 16-30 Aug.

Golden-winged x Blue-winged Warbler: County Rd 10, Geneseo 11 Jun (KC).

Black-&-white Warbler: M 17 Jun (MGU), unusual loc for date.

Prothonotary Warbler: 1-2 NMWMA (Armitage Rd) thru 17 Jun (mob), 22 Jul (JeB, CW), 10 Aug (JMcG), nesting.

Tennessee Warbler: last HB 9 Jun (AGU), late; 1B BBBO 22, 26 Jul, rare mid sum; arr 1B BBBO 16 Aug.

Nashville Warbler: arr 1B BBBO 16 Aug.

Connecticut Warbler: 1B BBBO 25 Aug, ph, Reg record early.

Mourning Warbler: 1B BBBO 16 Jul, unusual loc for date.

Com. Yellowthroat: total B 18 BBBO 15-29 Aug.

Am. Redstart: total B 34 BBBO 15-30 Aug, good number.

Cape May Warbler: arr 3 HB 15 Aug.

Magnolia Warbler: last 1B BBBO 16 Jun, late; arr Chimney Bluffs WAYN 19 Aug, early; total B 36 BBBO 21-30 Aug.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr 1B BBBO 16 Aug.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr G 13 Jun (KGr), early.

Yellow Warbler: max 44 Beatty Pt, Greece 12 Jun (RSp); 42 Beatty Pt, Greece 15 Jun (AGu); good counts; total B 9 BBBO 15-29 Aug, low num B.

Blackpoll Warbler: last HB 8 Jun; HB 22-28 Jun (AGu), late. **Black-throated Blue**

Warbler: last Cranberry Pnd Trail, G 1 Jun; arr Beechwood SP 25 Aug.

Pine Warbler: max 10 HB 25 Aug (BriM), good count.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr HB 15 Aug (AGu), early migr.

Prairie Warbler: 1-2 Wetmore Rd, LIVI 11 Jun (BH, STa, TBo, ph), rare breeder.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr M – OW 19 Aug.

Canada Warbler: last 1B BBBO 12 Jun; arr 1B BBBO 15 Aug.

Wilson's Warbler: last 1B BBBO 5 Jun; arr NMWMA (VDS) 20 Aug.

REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

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In Ithaca, June 2018 was cooler and drier than normal, with the average temperature 0.6°F below normal and precipitation 1.9" less than normal. July and August were both warmer and wetter than normal. The average temperature in July was 1.7° above normal, and the precipitation was 0.12" more than normal. The average temperature in August was 3.1° above normal, and the precipitation was 1.34" more than normal.

While the bountiful rainfall of August led to swollen rivers and streams making them inhospitable to waterfowl, conditions at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge were apparently excellent for Trumpeter Swans and dabbling ducks. Observers recorded high counts in August for Trumpeter Swan and all species of dabbling ducks, except Wood Duck and Mallard. They recorded a high count for Mallards in June. A variety of diving ducks lingered into June, with Canvasback on Cayuga Lake and at Montezuma NWR, Greater Scaup on Seneca Lake, Lesser Scaup on Seneca and Cayuga Lakes and at Montezuma NWR, Long-tailed Duck on Seneca Lake, Bufflehead on Seneca, Canandaigua, and Keuka Lakes, Common Goldeneye on Canandaigua and Seneca Lakes, and Red-breasted Merganser on Seneca Lake. Ring-necked Ducks were seen on Seneca Lake and at Montezuma NWR in July and again at Montezuma NWR in August. An individual Ruddy Duck was reported at Montezuma NWR in August.

Joining the August high counts at Montezuma NWR was Pied-billed Grebe, and joining the lingering June diving ducks was Horned Grebe, with as many as three on Seneca Lake in June. Unusual were two Red-necked Grebes on Seneca Lake in mid-August. Jay McGowan also recorded a high count of Double-crested Cormorants on Cayuga Lake in August.

A single Snowy Egret and a single Cattle Egret showed up at Montezuma NWR in June. Remarkably, two Yellow-crowned Night-Herons appeared in the

Region. Kayakers photographed one wading in Fall Creek in Freeville. The other was at Montezuma NWR for more than a month for many to see. David Nicosia's report of 25 Black-crowned Night-Herons at Montezuma NWR was a summer high count.

Two Black Vultures spent the last half of the season in the Ithaca-Dryden area. Charles Higham reported 100 Turkey Vultures at Taughannock Falls State Park for another high count. Chris Wood turned in a high count for Ospreys at Montezuma NWR. Also at Montezuma NWR, Michael Scheibel reported a high count of Common Gallinules, Logan Kahle turned in a high count of American Coots, and Mark Brown had a high count of Sandhill Cranes.

Late departing spring migrant shorebirds were Semipalmated Plover, Least Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, and Wilson's Phalarope. Early arriving fall migrant shorebirds were Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover, and Long-billed Dowitcher. Ann Mitchell reported a high count of Greater Yellowlegs. Jay McGowan and Livia Santana reported a high count of Lesser Yellowlegs. Jay McGowan reported a high count of Sanderlings at Long Point State Park and Tim Lenz reported the same number at Montezuma NWR. Jay and Kevin McGowan reported a high count of White-rumped Sandpiper. Unusual species of shorebirds included an American Avocet in early June and a Ruff in early August, both at Montezuma NWR. A Red Knot was at Myers Point on Cayuga Lake in late August.

No unusual gull or tern species were reported during the season, but observers reported high counts for Bonaparte's, Ring-billed, and Great Black-backed Gulls and for Black Tern. The high count of six Bonaparte's Gulls in Aurora Bay came on 10 June, a late spring migrant date for that species. Also late was a Lesser Black-backed Gull at Myers Point on 14 June. A sighting of the species at the same location on 9 July is a rare mid-summer record.

Observers in Steuben County found a location for Barn Owl in the Town of Thurston. Jeremy Collison had a high count of Belted Kingfishers in Queen Catharine Marsh. William Evans and Ethan Lai had high counts of Red-bellied Woodpecker in separate locations in Tompkins County. Logan Kahle had a high count of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers in Finger Lakes National Forest. Jay McGowan and Livia Santana had a high count of Acadian Flycatcher in Cayuta Gulf. An Olive-sided Flycatcher and a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher were reported on early fall arrival dates.

Other miscellaneous high counts were Wes Blauvelt's Blue Jays in Tompkins County, Chris Wood's Tufted Titmice in Queen Catharine Marsh, Tim Lenz's Red-breasted Nuthatches around the Bonavista State Park Golf Course, a large birding group's Brown Creepers at Shindagin Hollow State Forest, Paul Rodewald's American Robins in Enfield, and William Evans's Cedar Waxwings at Jennings Pond. William Evans also recorded the nocturnal flight call of an early migrating Swainson's Thrush in mid-July.

The only late spring migrant warbler was a Cape May Warbler on 4 June. Early fall migrating warblers were a Cape May Warbler on 18 August and a

Northern Parula on 23 August. Another Northern Parula was seen and photographed by a large birding group at Roy H. Park Preserve on the remarkable date of 13 July. It is difficult to say if this was a late spring migrant or an early fall migrant or a bird that had just given up on the idea of completing its migration. Adriaan Dokter and Ken Rosenberg had a high count of Black-and-white Warblers at Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve. Chris Wood had a high count of Prothonotary Warblers at Montezuma NWR. Jay McGowan and Livia Santana reported a high count of Cape May Warblers in Roy H. Park Preserve. Jeremy Collison had a high count of Bay-breasted Warblers at Palmer Woods. Meena Haribal had a high count of Pine Warblers in Danby. Robert Buckert and Nick Kachala reported a high count of Prairie Warblers at Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve. A large group of observers tallied a high count of Canada Warblers at Shindagin Hollow State Forest. Rare warblers included a Golden-winged Warbler and a “Lawrence’s” Warbler at Sapsucker Woods, a back-crossed Golden-winged X Blue-winged Warbler hybrid in Danby, a Connecticut Warbler in Sapsucker Woods, and a Yellow-breasted Chat at Monkey Run.

Rounding out the high counts were Ethan Lai’s Chipping Sparrows at Bluegrass Lane Natural Area, nocturnal fall migrant Rose-breasted Grosbeaks tallied by a group of counters at Cornell University, Meena Haribal’s Bobolinks at Montezuma NWR, and Jay McGowan’s Orchard Orioles at Myers Point. A Black-headed X Rose-breasted Grosbeak hybrid appeared and was photographed at a feeder belonging to Jennifer Fais and Noel Sylvester in the Town of Rathbone, Steuben County in early August. The bird continued there through the end of the season. “Winter” finches this summer were a Red Crossbill that Marky Mutchler sound-recorded in the Finger Lakes National Forest and flocks of Pine Siskins in the Town of Caroline and on Hammond Hill, both in Tompkins County.

CONTRIBUTORS

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**PHOTO GALLERY
SUMMER 2018**



Trindade Petrel, near Hudson Canyon, *Suffolk*, 20 Aug 2018, © Tom Johnson.



Bridled Tern, Great Gull Island, *Suffolk*, 4 Aug 2018, © Sean Sime.
 South Polar Skua, offshore Long Island, 20 Jul 2018, © Rachael Herman.
 White-faced Storm-Petrel, near Hudson Canyon, 19 Jul 2018, © Rachael Herman.



Anhinga, Morningside Park, *Sullivan*, 23 Jul 2018, © John Haas.
Roseate Spoonbill, Wallkill River NWR, *Orange*, 5 Aug 2018, © Karen Miller.



American Avocets, West Barrier Bar CP, *Cayuga*, 7 Aug 2018, © Deborah Dohne.
 Brown Booby, Long Lake, *Hamilton*, 25 Aug 2018, © Tom Whitney.
 Lark Sparrow, Randall's Island, *New York*, 31 Aug 2018, © Nadir Souirgi.

Dave Kennedy, Max Kirsch, Geo Kloppel, J Gary Kohlenberg, Yasuhiko Komatsu, Stuart Krasnoff, Ethan Lai, Gabriel Leite, Tim Lenz, Sam Loomis, Lea LSF, N Mahathi, Patricia Martin, Anne Mayville, Kevin McGann, Jay McGowan, Kevin McGowan, Seabird McKeon, Tracy McLellan, Phil McNeil, Matthew D. Medler, Jasper Merry, Peto Miranda, Ann Mitchell, Elliot Montieth, W Morris, Diane Morton, Marky Mutchler, Adrianna Nelson, Patrick Newcombe, Jessica Newman, David Nicosia, Bob Nieman, James Norwalk, Dave Nutter, Dixon Onderdonk, Ana Paula Oxom, Pooja Panwar, Lorena Patricio, Hans Peterman, Scott Peterson, Jo Popma, Mike Powers, Bill Purcell, Paul Rodewald, Emma Rosen, Ken Rosenberg, Kevin Rybczynski, Livia Santana, Saurabh Sawant, Michael Scheibel, Tom Schulenberg, Luke Seitz, Jarred Seveyka, James Sharpless, Shirley Shaw, Dominic Sherony, David Simpson, Roger Smith, Chris Spagnoli, Andrew Spencer, Mike Stage, Rick Stevens, Noel Sylvester, Michael S Taylor, Michael Tetlow, Chris Thomas, Sarah Toner, Diane Traina, Drew Weber, Wyatt Westerkamp, David Wheeler, Chris Wood, Kexin Yan.

ABBREVIATIONS

BLNA – Bluegrass Lane Natural Area, TOMP; **CU** – Cornell University; **Cyg** – Cayuga; **LPBP** – Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve, TOMP; **MNWR** – Montezuma NWR; **MR** – Monkey Run, TOMP; **NE Ith** – Northeast Ithaca; **Sen** – Seneca; **SHSF** – Shindagin Hollow State Forest; **SW** – Sapsucker Woods, TOMP; **TDan** – T Danby; **TDry** – T Dryden, TOMP.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: 1-6 MNWR thru; max 26 Mud Lock CAYU 16 Jun (PMc), high; 5 Emerson P CAYU 24 Aug.

Trumpeter Swan: max 16 MNWR 21 Aug (SSH), high.

TUNDRA SWAN (R3): MNWR 2-4 Jun (mob!); MNWR 3-4 Jul (mob!, ph).

Blue-winged Teal: max 45 MNWR 25 Aug (TL, JMc), high.

N. Shoveler: max 60 MNWR 25 Aug (TL, JMc), high.

Gadwall: max 75 MNWR 29 Aug (LK), high.

Am. Wigeon: max 230 MNWR 29 Aug (LK), high.

Mallard: max 1200 MNWR 15 Jun (mob), high.

Am. Black Duck: max 50 MNWR 11 Aug (CF), high.

N. Pintail: max 30 MNWR 25 Aug (TL, JMc), high for date.

Green-winged Teal: max 180 MNWR MNWR 25 Aug (TL, JMc), high.

Canvasback: 1-2 Mud Lock CAYU 2-3 Jun; MNWR 16 Jun.

Ring-necked Duck: Lakefront P ONTA 18 Jul; MNWR 20 Jul; MNWR 3 Aug.

GREATER SCAUP (R3): 2 Sen L SP 11-15 Jun (TL, mob, ph).

Lesser Scaup: 2 Sen L SP 1-23 Jun; Cyg L 2-3 Jun; MNWR 23 Jun.

LONG-TAILED DUCK (R3): last Sen L SP 2 Jun (JMc, KMcGo).

BUFFLEHEAD (R3): Sen L SP 11 Jun (TL); Holiday Harbour ONTA 13 Jun (CJa); Sen L SP 23 Jun (KG); 4 Keuka L, T Jerusalem YATE 26 Jun (MTe).

COM. GOLDENEYE (R3): 1-4 Holiday Harbour ONTA 1 Jun-20 Jul (CJa, ph); 2 Sen L SP 12-15 Jun (mob, ph).

Hooded Merganser: max 11 Hile School Hill Rd Wetland TOMP 3 Jul (CW), high.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 3 Sen L SP 11-15 Jun (TL, ph), high.

Ruddy Duck: MNWR 11 & 25 Aug, low.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 159 MNWR 12 Aug (CJa), high.

HORNED GREBE (R3): 1-3 Sen L SP 1-23 Jun (mob, ph).

RED-NECKED GREBE (R3): 2 Sen L SP 11 Aug (TL, ph).

Com. Nighthawk: arr 2 City of Ithaca 12 Aug; TDry 12 Aug; max 11 TDry 24 Aug.

RAILS - LARIDS

Com. Gallinule: max 250 MNWR 20 Aug (MSc), high.

Am. Coot: max 405 MNWR 29 Aug (LK), high.

Sandhill Crane: max 22 MNWR 4 Aug (MBR), high.

AM. AVOCET (R3): MNWR 1-5 Jun (mob, ph).

Black-bellied Plover: last MNWR 3 Jun; arr 3 MNWR 25 Jul (TL, ph), early; max 10 MNWR 25 Aug.

Am. Golden-Plover: 4 MNWR 22 Aug; 2 MNWR 28 Aug.

Semipalmated Plover: last MNWR 23 Jun (BwF, ph), late; arr MNWR 4 Jul (SP), early; max 55 MNWR 11 Aug.

Upland Sandpiper: max 5 T Seneca Falls SENE 14-20 Jul.

Whimbrel: arr Cyg L, T Seneca Falls SENE 18 Jul; MNWR 19 Jul; 2 Clute Memorial P SCHU 21 Jul; MyPt 22 Jul.

Ruddy Turnstone: last MNWR 1 Jun; arr & max 3 MNWR 25 Jul.

RED KNOT (R3): MyPt 30-31 Aug (mob, ph).

RUFF: MNWR 4-10 Aug (mob, ph).

Stilt Sandpiper: arr 2 MNWR 13 Jul; max 13 MNWR 26 Jul.

Sanderling: arr MNWR 22 Jul; 2 Cyg L, Aurora 22 Jul; 10 MyPt 22 Jul; max 40 Long Pt SP 22 Jul (JMc); 40 MNWR 23 Jul (TL), high.

Dunlin: last MNWR 9 Jun; arr 5 MNWR 4 Aug.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr MNWR 5 Aug; max 7 MNWR 29 Aug.

Least Sandpiper: last MNWR 23 Jun (DNu), late; arr 2 MNWR 4 Jul; max 200 MNWR 25 Aug.

White-rumped Sandpiper: last MNWR 15 Jun (mob!), late; arr 2 MNWR 26 Jul; max 18 MNWR 2 Jun (JMc, KMcGo), high.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: arr MNWR 25 Aug.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr MNWR 10 Jul; max 125 MNWR 25 Aug.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: last MNWR 15 Jun; arr MNWR 14 Jul; max 300 MNWR 4 Aug.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 7 MNWR 15 Jul; max 18 MNWR 25 Aug.

Long-billed Dowitcher: arr MNWR 16 Jul (TL!), early; max 9 MNWR 23 Aug.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr 2 Dunn Field Fishing Access CHEM 15 Jun; max 9 MNWR 16 Aug.

Lesser Yellowlegs: last Watkins Glen Central High School 2 Jun; MNWR 2 Jun; arr 4 MNWR 23 Jun; max 500 MNWR date (JMc, LSA), high.

WILLET (R3): MNWR 17 Jul (MGu, PMA, SP!).

Greater Yellowlegs: last MNWR 2 Jun; arr MNWR 22 Jun; max 180 MNWR 26 Jul (AMi), high.

Wilson's Phalarope: last MNWR 8 Jun (mob, ph), late; arr MNWR 12 Jul.

Bonaparte's Gull: last & max 6 Aurora Bay CAYU 10 Jun (MAI, ID, SD), late and high; arr Taughannock Falls SP 2 Jul.

Ring-billed Gull: max 3000 Sen L SP 22 Aug (TL), high.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: last MyPt 14 Jun (JCu, ID, TM), late; MyPt 9 Jul (JMc), rare in mid-sum.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 13 Harris P CAYU 29 Aug (TL), high.

Black Tern: max 45 MNWR 17 Jul (MGu, PMA), high.

LOONS – PARROTS

Com. Loon: max 11 Cyg L, Aurora 22 Jul.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 400 MyPt 24 Aug (JMc), high.

SNOWY EGRET (R3): MNWR 8 Jun (DSH, MTe!).

CATTLE EGRET (R3): MNWR 12-13 Jun (DK, ph; mob, ph).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 25 MNWR 11 Aug (DNi), high.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (R3): Fall Creek, Freeville 26 Jun (LLSF, ph); MNWR 21 Jul-28 Aug (mob, ph).

Black Vulture: 2 T Ithaca & TDry 22 Jul-30 Aug (mob, ph).

Turkey Vulture: max 100 Taughannock Falls SP 4 Aug (CHi), high.

Osprey: max 17 MNWR 4 Jul (CW), high.

BARN OWL (R3): T Thurston STEU 30 Jun (DO!); T Thurston STEU 20 Aug (DB!).

Belted Kingfisher: 8 Queen Catharine Marsh SCHU 28 Jul (JeCo), high.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 8 TDan 17 Aug (WEv); 8 BLNA 30 Aug (EL), high.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last Caswell Road Grasslands TOMP 7 June (CuHa, DWE); arr BLNA 5 Aug (KR!), early.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last Summerhill State Forest CAYU 3 Jun; arr NE Ith 29 Jul (KR!), early; max 3 Finger Lakes National Forest SENE 26 Aug (LK), high.

Acadian Flycatcher: max 7 Cayuta Gulf SCHU 14 Jul (JMc, LSA), high.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr CU 23 Aug.

Blue Jay: max 47 Boggy Bottom TOMP 21 Aug (WB), high.

Tufted Titmouse: max 16 Queen Catharine Marsh SCHU 21 Jul (CW), high.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 24 Bonavista SP Golf Course SENE 23 Aug (TL), high.
Brown Creeper: max 6 SHSF TOMP 17 Jun (mob), high.
Gray-checked Thrush: last 2 NE Ith 1 Jun, nocturnal.
Swainson's Thrush: max & last 5 NE Ith 1 Jun; arr TDan 19 Jul (WEv, recording), nocturnal, early.
Am. Robin: max 314 T Enfield TOMP 28 Aug (PR), high.
Cedar Waxwing: max 75 Jennings Pd TOMP 24 Aug (WEv), high.
Red Crossbill: Finger Lakes National Forest SCHU 16 Jun (MMu, recording).
Pine Siskin: max 15 T Caroline TOMP 10 Jun (SKe), high; 11 Hammond Hill TOMP 5 Jun.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Chipping Sparrow: max 50 BLNA 26 Aug (EL), high.
YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT (R3): MR 10 Jul (CW!).
Bobolink: max 2000 MNWR 26 Aug (MH), high.
Orchard Oriole: max 7 MyPt (JMc), high.
Worm-eating Warbler: LPBP 12-17 Jun.
Louisiana Waterthrush: max 5 Buttermilk Falls SP 15 Jun; last 2 T Big Flats CHEM 5 Aug.
GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER (R3): SW 12 Aug (NB, MaC!, JMc).

GOLDEN-WINGED X BLUE-WINGED WARBLER (R3): TDan 26 Jun (PMc, ph).
"LAWRENCE'S" WARBLER (R3): SW 11 Aug (AGC, ph).
Black-and-white Warbler: max 7 LPBP (AD, KRo), high.
Prothonotary Warbler: max 3 MNWR (CW), high.
Tennessee Warbler: arr NE Ith 15 Aug.
CONNECTICUT WARBLER (R3): SW 30 Aug (JFr!).
Cape May Warbler: last MR 4 Jun (CW!), late; arr Bonavista SP Golf Course 18 Aug (TL), early; max 3 Roy H Park Preserve TOMP 19 Aug (JMc, LSa), high.
N. Parula: last SHSF TOMP 1 Jun; Roy H Park Preserve 13 Jul (mob, YK, ph); arr Palmer Woods TOMP 23 Aug (JeCo), early.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Mundy Wildflower Garden TOMP 12 Aug; max 3 Palmer Woods TOMP 23 Aug (JeCo), high.
Blackpoll Warbler: last 2 T South Bristol ONTA 4 Jun.
Pine Warbler: max 5 MR 1 Jul (CW); 5 TDan 29 Jul (MH), high.
Prairie Warbler: max 7 LPBP 16 Jun (RBu, NK), high.
Canada Warbler: max 12 SHSF TOMP 17 Jun (mob), high.
Wilson's Warbler: arr CU 21 Jun.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 15 CU (mob), high, nocturnal.
BLACK-HEADED X ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK (R3): T Rathbone STEU 10 Aug thru (JFa, NS, ph).



REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

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June 2018 was about average regarding temperature and slightly drier than normal. July was warmer than the long-term norm but had about two inches more rain than average. August was two degrees cooler than normal but had almost two and a half times as much rain as average.

Common Gallinules again bred in Chenango County in a Sherburne marsh. Seven birds, including five juveniles, were seen there. This was the second year in a row that breeding has been reported in this marsh. There were perhaps ten

blocks reporting possible or confirmed breeding during the 2000-2005 atlas work in the Region, so it is not a very common breeder in the Region.

Conveniently visible from a viewing platform at Pharsalia State Forest, two adult Sandhill Cranes and two recently hatched colts were reported and photographed on 26 June. However, the colts were not seen after that date, but later three adults were seen together in the area from 5-6 August. In previous NY Breeding Bird Atlas projects begun in 1980 and 2000, there were no reports of Sandhill Cranes breeding in the Region.

Regarding migrating shorebirds, there were several reports of Sanderlings in late July. From 22-23 July, Sanderlings were reported in Broome, Chenango, and Otsego Counties. For the past ten years there have been no reported July sightings of Sanderling from our Region in eBird. Then on 23 July 71 Least Sandpipers were seen and photographed in a Sherburne marsh. The cause of this sudden surge in July shorebird sightings is unknown. On 21 August a Ruddy Turnstone was spotted at Dorchester Park, and the next morning a Short-billed Dowitcher was also seen there by an observer who was searching for the Ruddy Turnstone. From 19-20 August, first one, then two Black Terns were also observed perched on a jetty at Dorchester Park. Lastly, a Baird's Sandpiper was photographed at a pond in Chenango County on 31 August.

In late June a family of bathing Eastern Screech-Owls was photographed by a trail-cam set up near a stream at Broome Community College. This was a rare look at a behavior most of us had not seen before but must happen fairly frequently! In the village of Johnson City, there was a report of breeding hawks, which turned out to be a family of Merlins nesting in a tall spruce. This was a different location from last year's breeding pair in Broome.

In contrast to the many sightings of Red Crossbills last year, there was only one sighting of a Red Crossbill, but this observation had an audio recording as well as a photograph. The recording was analyzed by Matt Young and found to be an Appalachian or Type 1 variety. Pine Siskins were reported in good numbers in June and early July and may have been breeding in the Region, especially in Tioga County.

Possible breeding Grasshopper Sparrows were reported from Broome and Tioga in mid-June. A Nelson's Sparrow was seen on 19 August at Upper Lisle Park in Broome by Dave Nicosia.

Good numbers of breeding warblers were seen at Tuller Hill State Forest, which included nine Mourning Warblers and seven Hooded Warblers on 22 June. In total, 27 species of warblers were seen in the Region for the season, which is the same number as reported seen in the last year's summer report and in the fall report for the last three years. The warbler species reported changes somewhat, but the total number of species has remained the same.

In summary, 182 species were reported, with some interesting rarities and behaviors for the Region. If there are a reasonable number of reports, I try to eliminate duplicate reports on the same day by different observers when reporting the number of reports in the Region. There were 33,745 observations

in eBird for our Region, so I want to acknowledge and thank Bill Ostrander who sorted eBird data to identify arrivals, last dates, and high counts.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BoPd – Boland Pd, BROO; **BUNP** – Binghamton University Nature Preserve, BROO; **CaGr** – Carantouan Greenway, TIOG; **DorP** – Dorchester P, BROO; **LHNC** – Lime Hollow Nature Center, CORT; **MHL** – Michigan Hollow L, TIOG; **SHM** – Sherburne Railroad Grade Marsh, CHEN; **SusR** – Susquehanna R, BROO; **UL** – Upper Lisle P, BROO.

WATERFOWL - HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: 4 Delaware Ri DELA 13 Jun, late, ph.

Brant: 30 Otego OTSE 5 Jun, flyover.

Blue-winged Teal: 4 New Berlin CHEN 26 Jul; 10 T Candor TIOG 31 Aug.

Green-winged Teal: 3 Kilroy Rd Pd Oxford CHEN 31 Aug.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 4 MHL 3 Aug.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 48 reports throughout Region.

Black-billed Cuckoo: 41 reports throughout Region.

Com. Nighthawk: max 20 William Hill P Johnson City BROO 23 Aug; 11 Sidney DELA 27 Aug; 8 T Candor TIOG 30 Aug; 11 other scattered rep in late Aug.

Chimney Swift: max 47 Binghamton BROO 2 Aug.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: widely noted, 518 lines in eBird, many from feeders.

RAILS - LARIDS

Virginia Rail: 6 BoPd 23 Jul, 2 ad, 4 juv; 5 SHM, 4 Jul, 2 ad, 3 juv, ph.

Sora: MHL 15 Jul; BoPd 5-6 Jul.

Com. Gallinule: 7 SHM 25 Aug, 2 ad, 5 juv, ph; BoPd 22 July & 27 Aug; UL 10 Aug.

Sandhill Crane: 4 Pharsalia SF CHEN 26 Jun (mob), 2 ad, 2 juv, ph; 3 Pharsalia SF CHEN 5-6 Aug, 3 ad; *intro*.

Black-bellied Plover: DorP 31 Jul -1 Aug, only rep.

Semipalmated Plover: max 8 TriCities Airport BROO 13 Aug.

Ruddy Turnstone: DorP 21 Aug, only rep, *intro*.

Sanderling: William Hill P Johnson City 22 Jul; SHM 23 Jul; 2 T Springfield OTSE 23 Jul; 3 DorP 21 Aug; *intro*.

Baird's Sandpiper: Kilroy Rd P CHEN 31 Aug (MD), ph, *intro*.

Least Sandpiper: max 71 SHM, 23 Jul, ph, *intro*.

Pectoral Sandpiper: SHM 13 Aug; DorP 31 Aug.

Short-billed Dowitcher: DorP 22 Aug, ph.

Spotted Sandpiper: max 15 William Hill P Johnson City BROO 17 Jul.

Solitary Sandpiper: max 6 SHM 3 Aug.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr SHM 4 Jul.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr SHM 11 Jul.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: DorP 15 Aug.

Great Black-backed Gull: Cortland CORT 16 Jul.

Caspian Tern: max 4 DorP 8 Aug.

Black Tern: 2 DorP 19-20 Aug.

LOONS - PARROTS

Com. Loon: 3 Pepacton Res DELA 29 Jul -23 Aug.

Am. Bittern: MHL 14 JUN; Oxford CHEN 3 Jul; CaGr 19 Aug.

Least Bittern: CaGr17 Jun; 3 MHL 15 Jul, mob.

Great Egret: max 5 Wilber L OTSE 4 Aug; 27 rep, many from the Chenango & Susquehanna Rivers BROO.

Black Vulture: 4 scattered rep. from OTSE & DELA.

Osprey: approx. 50 rep throughout Region.

Bald Eagle: many reports, very widespread.

N. Goshawk: T Windsor BROO 4 -12 Jun.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 10 scattered rep of singles.

E. Screech-Owl: 3 SUNY Broome BROO 29 Jun, ph.

N. Saw-whet Owl: CHEN 12 Aug.

Am. Kestrel: max 9 Round Pond Rd BROO 22 Aug.

Merlin: max 4 Johnson City BROO 12 Jul.

Peregrine Falcon: max 2 Binghamton BROO 16 Jul, many rep of resident downtown pr.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Olive-Sided Flycatcher: Downsville DELA 14 & 25 Aug; Oxford CHEN 23 Aug; only reports.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Finger Lakes Tr CORT 1 Jun; Vestal BROO 8 Jun; DELA 29 Jul; OTSE 12 Aug.

Acadian Flycatcher: Backus Rd OTSE 8 Jul; rep singles TIOG & CHEN Jun and Jul.

Horned Lark: 2 MHL 2 Jun, ph.

Purple Martin: max 3 Tom Dunn Rd Oxford CHEN 23 Aug; 3 other rep singles TIOG & CHEN Jun and Jul.

Marsh Wren: max 6 MHL 2 Aug; 4 BoPd 30 Jun.

Red Crossbill: New Michigan SF CHEN 29 Jul, Type 1, ph, recording, only report.

Pine Siskin: max 8 Tubbs Hill Rd TIOG 10 Jun; 27 other rep mostly from TIOG Jun and early Jul.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Grasshopper Sparrow: max 2 T Candor TIOG 15 Jun; T Barker BROO 9-12 Jun.

Vesper Sparrow: UL 6 Aug, ph; King St BROO 29 Aug.

Nelson's Sparrow: UL 19 Aug (DN), *intro*.

Orchard Oriole: UL Jun 2-3; LHNC Jun 4.

"Brewster's" Warbler: T Candor TIOG 24 Aug.

Mourning Warbler: max 9 Tuller Hill SF CORT 22 Jun; 5 New Michigan SF CHEN 15 Jun.

Hooded Warbler: max 7 Tuller Hill SF CORT 22 Jun.

Cape May Warbler: max 5 Mase Cold Wetland Preserve DELA 31 Aug.

Cerulean Warbler: 2 Warren Rd DELA 2 Jul.

Bay-breasted Warbler: UL 19 & 31 Aug; Pharsalia SF CHEN 22 Aug.

Wilson's Warbler: CaGr 23 Aug; LHNC 25 Aug; King St BROO 29 Aug; Oxford CHEN 31 Aug.

REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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Overall the summer season was warmer than normal and featured an average amount of precipitation, but the statistics were not uniform across the Region. Eastern and northern portions received substantially less rainfall. Correspondingly, water levels on Adirondack lakes and creeks were noticeably down. In Syracuse, the average temperature for June was 65.6°F, a degree lower than normal. In June the total rainfall in Syracuse was 3.5", which is almost exactly the average. July and August were both approximately 2.5° warmer than normal and in Syracuse featured near average rainfall, 4.25" in July and 2.96" in August. In northern Herkimer County, Gary Lee reported that the water levels on Big Moose Lake and Stillwater Reservoir were the lowest seen in decades. Fortunately, low water didn't seem to hamper resident Common Loons, which experienced relatively good breeding success. By July, water levels in wetlands and streams were low in the southern and eastern parts of the Region. As early as mid-July, Delta Lake was drawn down and mudflats prevailed. Respectable numbers of shorebirds took advantage of the habitat, but only for a few short weeks. Water levels at Delta began increasing, and by the start of August, the flats were much reduced and shorebird numbers diminished and, reportedly, never rebounded even after the lake levels fell again.

In the north, the fruit crop was affected by drought, most notably the blackberry crop, which was largely desiccated. Apples, crabapples, and cherries were more resilient. In other parts of the Region, the fruit crop was particularly bountiful. Wild grapes, elderberries, viburnum, and dogwood berries were much in evidence. Mast production was fairly uniform throughout the Region's forests, with acorn and nut crops generally poor to nonexistent, and seed production, good to very good. Samaras were abundant on roughly a third of the ash trees and the same was true with most other maple family members. Catkins covered birch branches in forests and fields. Cone crops on conifers were poor, with most spruce trees producing virtually nothing. Norway Spruce was the exception in some areas. Some pine species were slightly more prolific, particularly Scotch Pine and Red Pine. Hemlock cone production was generally very poor. All told, the Region's mast is likely robust enough to tempt half-hardy songbirds and perhaps some winter finches to remain with us for a while.

A lone Snow Goose was seen on 25 June at Three Rivers WMA. The goose was flying north but apparently struggling. Perhaps it was old or

otherwise physically compromised. A high count of 60 Wood Ducks at Delta Lake on 19 July included many recently fledged young. That was one of several indications that Wood Ducks experienced a good breeding season in the Region. A female Northern Pintail remained at the dam site on the Oswego River at Phoenix for more than two weeks in early August. There were no reports of Blue-winged Teal during the breeding season, but the species was encountered in relatively low numbers in late August as they began staging. In Utica on 29 July, a non-breeding male Greater Scaup was seen in the company of Canada Geese. The group was swimming and feeding within a fenced-in water impoundment at an industrial brown site. The duck was diving and apparently feeding normally but was never seen in flight, so its full range of abilities was never ascertained. Although relatively low high counts of Wild Turkeys in the Region's eBird data don't reflect it, the species had a relatively good breeding season. Hens with poults were commonly encountered in a variety of habitats and as they crossed roads throughout much of the Region.

A maximum count of eight Yellow-billed Cuckoos at Howland Island on 9 June was notable, but it was the outlier. The next highest count was only two. Black-billed Cuckoos were more frequently encountered, but high counts didn't exceed two. We have learned to look to the resident Peregrine Falcons in Utica to gauge the strength of local cuckoo populations. For five years now, when providing for nestlings and fledglings, the male Peregrine dependably preys upon cuckoos of both species. The ease with which he procures them within his hunting territory indicates that the Region's supply of cuckoos is higher than one might glean from other data sources. Many of the cuckoos caught are stored on a high row of shallow ledges on the State Office Building in downtown Utica. The cuckoos, along with other prey species, are most often stored with their tails pointing out, which makes them less likely to blow off in high winds. For us, it also makes them easy to identify and count. During the June-July portion of the breeding season, at least 20 cuckoos were taken by the falcons.

High counts of migrating Common Nighthawks didn't make it out of middle-single digits, and there were no reports of the species between 2 June and the second week of August, when they start to migrate. Three reports of Eastern Whip-poor-will came from a known breeding area in the Town of Salisbury in Herkimer County. Perhaps a lack of effort was responsible for the dearth of reports from the traditional summer location along the north shore of Oneida Lake. Chimney Swifts were reported in expected areas, but their flock sizes were low. High counts were 40 and 20 from Dolgeville and Skaneateles Lake, respectively. On 9 June a maximum of 28 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds was tallied as they visited the many nectar feeders at the Stillwater Hotel in the Adirondacks. All the Region's expected rail species were found this period but not in exceptional numbers. A high count of six Virginia Rails at Woodchuck Hill Field Forest Preserve near Fayetteville on 16 July included three fledglings. The two American Coots reported at Howland Island on 26 August was our only sighting of that species for the season.

On 7 August at the West Barrier Bar County Park near Fair Haven, Deborah Dohne observed and photographed three **American Avocets**. The rarities flew in tight formation over shore before diverging from the shoreline and heading southeast over the bay. They were not seen again. This sighting was only the seventh Regional record for the species. Shorebird numbers and species diversity were about average for the Region, but there were some notable occurrences. **Piping Plover** was confirmed breeding near Sandy Pond. Alison Koczek found two banded adults with four banded chicks on 29 June. Matthew Brown observed and photographed a banded adult and four fledglings on 25-26 July. This is encouraging and hopefully represents the start of reestablishment of a breeding population on the Lake Ontario shoreline in Oswego County. There were few reports of Upland Sandpipers this period. All occurred within a few miles of each other in the Town of Deerfield, south of Poland in Herkimer and Oneida Counties. None was reported after 8 June. Although it's not unusual for **Whimbrels** to be seen in the Region during spring migration, the species is much less commonly encountered in the summer and fall. This period several were found at Fair Haven between 17 July and 22 August. A high count of five Whimbrels was reported on 24 July. Small numbers of **Ruddy Turnstones** and **Red Knots** were also found both at Fair Haven and Sandy Pond in late July and August. Although the majority of the common sandpiper species were reported only in modest numbers, there were a few decent high counts. At Fair Haven on 22 July, 125 Sanderlings were tallied. That number was then dwarfed by the **350** Sanderlings Matthew Brown counted at Sandy Pond on 25 July. 125 Semipalmated Sandpipers found at Delta Lake on 26 Jul was notable, as were the 12 White-rumped Sandpipers counted at Sandy Pond on 14 August. Gregg Dashnau reported 13 Short-billed Dowitchers at the West Barrier Bar County Park on 17 July. It was a particularly good season for **Willetts**, with multiple sightings along the Lake Ontario shoreline. On 9 July, Chris and Sally Holt photographed six Willets as they fed along the shore. Two close birds were found at Oswego on 24 July and enjoyed by many. On 17 August Deborah Dohne observed and photographed four Willets as they perched with gulls on the breakwall at West Barrier Bar County Park.

At the same location on 22 August, two **Parasitic Jaegers** were seen soaring and chasing after gulls. Jay McGowan and Livia Santana spotted a second cycle **Lesser Black-backed Gull** perched on a breakwall at Fair Haven on 21 July. Lesser Black-backed Gulls are uncommon visitors in the Region during the summer period, although immatures of the species show up with more frequency than adults. Reports of Black Terns came from Selkirk Shores State Park (five on 16 June) and Fair Haven (six on 22 August). No close surveys of the Oneida Lake Common Tern colony were reported to eBird, but sightings anywhere on the lake in summer are presumed to be birds from this colony.

In northern Herkimer County in the Adirondacks, Gary Lee monitored 23 breeding pairs of Common Loons on 12 Lakes. They produced a total of 14

chicks. Lee reported that pairs on South Lake and Honodaga Lake lost their nests and, at the latter site, a banded adult male was killed by a boat. Reports of American Bitterns came from only six locations and all involved single birds. Least Bitterns were found in nine, mostly expected areas. All sightings were of single birds including one expired individual seen on 1 July. That bittern had been stored in the male Peregrine Falcon's afore-mentioned larder in Utica, the top story ledges on Utica's State Office Building. Interestingly, the bittern had a dead Yellow-billed Cuckoo stored on top of it!

On 26 August, Chris Wood spotted a rare **Snowy Egret** in flight over the northwest portion of Howland Island, continuing a good showing in our area by the species. There have been at least 30 previous reports of Snowy Egret in Region 5. Sightings of (usually) one Black-crowned Night-Heron at Onondaga Lake continued from 2 July through the end of the period. The species status as a breeder in the Onondaga Lake area is uncertain. While aboard a boat on the Oneida River near Brewerton on 10 July, Dorothy Wadlow observed a single adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** perched on a bank. The observer described the bird well and was familiar with both night heron species. It was not relocated.

In mid-summer, a few relatively large concentrations of Turkey Vultures were reported. On 18 July, 74 were tallied at Fair Haven, and on 5 August 95 were seen in Canastota, where they are attracted to the many perches provided by a cell phone tower. There were only 20 reports of Northern Harrier this period. On 1 June, an adult Northern Goshawk carrying prey was observed and photographed in Sangerfield. That was the only confirmed record of the species for the period. Historically, N. Goshawks nested in State forestland in that area. A maximum of 20 Bald Eagles was counted at Derby Hill on 21 July. On 13 June, an injured fledgling Bald Eagle was rescued at a nest site in Hamilton, Madison County. The young bird was taken to Kindred Kingdoms Wildlife Center for rehabilitation. Monitoring what comes into wildlife rehabilitation centers is often a good method of determining what species are breeding in a region. On 11 July, an orphaned fledgling Red-shouldered Hawk was found at Bernhards Bay on the north shore of Oneida Lake, and taken to Kindred Kingdoms for rehabilitation. There were only a dozen other reports of the species. 41 Broad-winged Hawks migrated over Derby Hill on 25 August.

Only the Region's three most common owl species were reported this season. On 26 June, an Eastern Screech Owl nestling tumbled out of a Utica nest and was brought to Falcon Heart Rescue for rehabilitation. A maximum of eight Red-headed Woodpeckers was found at Fair Haven on 7 July, an excellent number for the area. Most reports of Red-headed Woodpeckers came from the Lake Ontario shoreline and the vicinity of Oneida Lake. An undated (summer) but reliable report of a pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers came from the town of Kirkland and very close to one of the species' traditional breeding areas. One Black-backed Woodpecker was observed in Old Forge on 11 August.

American Kestrels were reported as breeding in Tully, Rome, and Westmoreland. On 13 July, breeding Merlin were confirmed by Mickey Scilingo near his Constantia property and where the species has bred in previous years. On the 13th, Scilingo could hear nestlings calling from the nest while a parent attempted to escort an Osprey out of its territory. By 24 July, three young had fledged from the nest. Gary Lee reported finding three Merlin nests in the Adirondacks. It remains unknown whether Peregrine Falcons attempted to breed in Syracuse this season. If they did, they didn't use the nest box provided on the State Tower Building. Although there were reports of the usual resident pair being present in downtown, there were no reports of a nesting attempt on another building and no one saw any fledglings. Three Peregrines fledged from the Utica nest between 17-22 June. All juveniles remained on their parents' territory until mid-August.

Olive-sided Flycatcher arrived into the southern part of the Region on 19 August. On 24 August, Ian Davis and Sarah Dzielski observed 22 Eastern Kingbirds at Chittning Pond in Sangerfield. Reportedly the birds were feeding en masse around the edge of the water. While kayaking 4.5 miles around Howland Island, Jay McGowan and Livia Santana tallied (among other things) 43 Warbling Vireos. The next highest count was eight at Verona Beach State Park on 7 August. Some observers noted that Warbling Vireos were conspicuously absent from migrant mixed flocks in late August. The first Philadelphia Vireo was reported on 20 August. On 8 July, three Canada Jays were reported by Will McPhain near Inlet in northern Herkimer County. Like Black-backed Woodpeckers, Canada Jays are expected in the boreal habitat of northern Herkimer County, but are seldom reported.

There were relatively few reports of Cliff Swallows, and all came from areas south and west of Oneida Lake. Reports of modest-sized breeding colonies came from East Syracuse and Cicero. There were indications that Red-breasted Nuthatches were on the move this summer. Although counts were almost uniformly small, the species was observed in many unusual locations. The lack of spruce cones in northern areas likely contributed to the irruption. A maximum number of eight Red-breasted Nuthatches was tallied in Fabius on 1 July. Breeding season reports of Winter Wrens primarily came from the Adirondacks, Tug Hill, and the southern highlands of Madison and Onondaga Counties. The data suggests a continued decline of breeding populations at lower altitudes. There were very few reports of Swainson's Thrush this period. A few reports came from northern Herkimer County, where the species normally breeds. One report involved a migrant seen at Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary on 28 August. For a few years now, it seems that Northern Mockingbirds were being found only in areas located south and west of Oneida Lake. This summer there were a smattering of sightings in the east and even as far north as Old Forge. A pair was confirmed nesting in downtown Utica in late June. Those mockingbirds had a nest in an ornamental conifer located in a hotel's side yard. The adult female was highly protective of her nest and occasionally harassed pedestrians on the

sidewalk. The mockingbirds usually limited their mobbing behavior to street-level antagonists, but more than once one of the adults was seen diving at a juvenile Peregrine Falcon perched high upon a radio antenna set atop the roof of the 13 story hotel.

On 5 July, while paddling the Moose River near Old Forge, Sam Heinrich reported hearing at least two Red Crossbills in what seemed to be appropriate habitat. As it happened that would be our only crossbill report for the season. Pine Siskins were reported in small numbers in high elevations. There were only three reports of Grasshopper Sparrows this period and none occurred after 5 July. **Clay-colored Sparrows** were reported at two locations but only consistently at Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary in Kirkland, where they are known to breed. In the latter part of the breeding season, one Clay-colored Sparrow was noted rendering a convincing Chipping Sparrow-type song. There were only two reports of Vesper Sparrow this summer. More encouragingly, the numbers of Eastern Towhees seem to be up. A maximum number of 15 was tallied at Green Lakes State Park on Independence Day. Very good numbers were reported in several other locations. A pair of towhees recognized by behavioral quirks returned a second year to breed at Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary. As is the case with many unbanded songbirds, it's often hard to determine if they breed with the same mate in consecutive years.

On 19 June, a **Yellow-breasted Chat** was among birds netted in a banding project at Baltimore Woods Nature Center. From mid-August through the end of the period, numbers of migrating Bobolinks were relatively high over parts of the Region. 74 flew over Three Rivers WMA on 13 August and 62 flew over the McKoon's Road wetlands near Richfield Springs on 25 August. Orchard Orioles were especially numerous at Green Lakes State Park this period, with a high count of 11 tallied on 13 July. The species was confirmed breeding for the first time in several years at Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary. Again, this summer there were relatively few reports of Louisiana Waterthrush, and most came from the highlands in the Region's south and far north. There were no confirmed reports of Golden-winged Warblers this period. Blue-winged Warbler numbers continue to slip downwards. Maximum numbers were only four for that species. There remains a great amount of appropriate habitat for Blue-winged Warblers in the Region, and so its decline likely stems from myriad other causes. On 9 June, McGowan and Santana found eight Prothonotary Warblers while kayaking around Howland Island. Included in that number were two pairs at nest holes. Megan Westervelt observed a male Prothonotary Warbler coming in and out of a tree cavity at Delta Lake on 10 June. Based on the male's behavior it was conceivable that a female was inside the nest, but no subsequent visits were made to verify breeding. This was the first time since the original Breeding Bird Atlas Project in the 1980s that the species was suspected to be breeding at Delta. Alison Koczek found an early Palm Warbler on 26 July in the scrubby dunes at Sandy Island Beach State Park. A maximum number of five Cape May Warblers was counted by Bill Purcell at his Hastings property on the last day of August.

McGowan and Santana found an amazing total of 31 Cerulean Warblers at Howland Island on 9 June. There were less than a handful of sightings elsewhere in the Region. Northern Parulas were not hard to come up with in the northern part of the Region this year, at least according to some reporters. A maximum number of 10 was tallied in Old Forge on 5 July. Migrant Parulas began showing up in more southerly areas on 27 August.

This season a total of 211 species was reported, which is five above the recent 10-year average for the Region. Highlights included: Sandhill Crane, **American Avocet**, **Piping Plover**, **Whimbrel**, Ruddy Turnstone, **Red Knot**, **Willet**, Parasitic Jaeger, **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, Black Tern, **Snowy Egret**, **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**, Black-backed Woodpecker, Acadian Flycatcher, Gray Jay, Red Crossbill, **Yellow-breasted Chat**, and Prothonotary Warbler.

Summer 2018 produced 52,958 eBird records for Region 5, and these were processed by Swan Hummingbird v4.02. Reports were contributed by 356 people.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADK – Adirondacks, n. HERK; **BLNC** – Beaver L Nature Center, Baldwinsville; **CM** – Clay Marsh, Clay; **DB** – Ditch Bank Rd & vicinity, T Sullivan/Lenox; **DH** – Derby Hill, T Mexico; **DL** – Delta L; **Dolge** – Dolgeville, HERK; **FH** – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay, and vicinity; **GLSP** – Green Lakes SP, Manlius, ONON; **Hast** – Hastings, OSWE; **HI** – Howland I, CAYU; **KK** – Kindred Kingdom Wildlife Center, Pennellville; **MNWR** – Montezuma NWR; **OF** – Old Forge; **OLC** – Onondaga L Creekwalk; **OnonL** – Onondaga L; **OswH** – Oswego Harbor; **SB** – Sylvan Beach; **SFNS** – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; **SH** – Southern Highlands of Onondaga & Madison Co.; **SHTF** – Sky High Turf Farm, Chittenango, MADI; **Skan** – Skaneateles; **SNC** – Sterling Nature

Center, Sterling; **SP** – Sandy Pd and vicinity; **SSSP** – Selkirk Shores SP; **Syr** – Syracuse; **TR** – Three Rivers WMA, Lysander; **UM** – Utica Marsh; **VB** – Verona Beach SP and vicinity; **WH** – Whiskey Hollow; **WP** – Woodman Pd, Hamilton.

WATERFOWL _ HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: TR 25 Jun, possibly injured, only rep.
Canada Goose: max 250 DL 23 Jul.
Mute Swan: max 9 FH 30 Aug.
Trumpeter Swan: 2 SNC 3 Jun; TR 5 Jun; last 16 Jun; only reps.
Wood Duck: max 60 DL 19 Jul; 48 UM 26 Jul.
Blue-winged Teal: max 34 DL 25 Aug; 14 SP 26 Aug; few reps.
Gadwall: MNWR east 24 Aug, only rep.
Mallard: max 342 OLC 27 Jul.
Am. Black Duck: max 12 Little Falls 28 Aug.
N. Pintail: Phoenix 31 Jul – 17 Aug.
Green-winged Teal: first 2 Memphis 4 Aug; max 18 DL 25 Aug.
Redhead: 7 MNWR 5 Jun, only rep.
Greater Scaup: Utica 29 Jul (MP).
Lesser Scaup: WP 5 – 8 Jun, only rep.
Hooded Merganser: max 8 Richfield Springs 2 Jul.
Com. Merganser: max 21 OF 5 Jul.
Red-breasted Merganser: DL 10 Jun, only rep.
Ring-necked Pheasant: 2 SP 2 Jun; reports of singles from 6 other locs.
Ruffed Grouse: max 7 OF 18 Jul – 2 Aug; 6 SH 2 Jul.
Wild Turkey: max 24 Kirkville.
Pied-billed Grebe: 7 SSSP 16 Jun; max 23 MNWR east 24 Aug.
Rock Pigeon: max 72 Syr 9 Aug.
Mourning Dove: max 43 OnonL 24 Jul.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: max 8 HI 9 Jun; 2 GLSP 3 Jul.
Black-billed Cuckoo: max 2 GB 6 Jun & 2 GLSP 3 – 4 Jul & 2 WP 6 Jul & 2 Hast 15 – 29 Jul & 2 SFNS 18 Jul.
Com. Nighthawk: max 6 TR 20 Aug; 4 Syr 24 Aug; low numbers.
E. Whip-poor-will: 2 Salisbury 2 Jun – 4 Jul, only loc.
Chimney Swift: 20 Skan 16 Jun; max 40 Dolge 5 Aug.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 28 Stillwater Reservoir, ADK 9 Jun, at hotel feeders; 6 HI 15 Jun.

RAILS – LARIDS

Virginia Rail: max 6 Fayetteville 16 Jul & 6 Richfield Springs 25 Aug; relatively low

numbers.

Sora: Madison 9-11 Jun; HI 15 Jun; SP 15 Aug; Warren 25 Aug; only reps.
Com. Gallinule: 4 Volney 25 Jul; 6 Madison 5 Aug; max 17 MNWR east 24 Aug.
Am. Coot: max 2 HI 26 Aug; no reps away from HI & MNWR east.
Sandhill Crane: 2 West Monroe 17 Jul; max 12 MNWR east 26 Jul (DD); TR 10 Jun.
AMERICAN AVOCET (R5): 3 FH 7 Aug (DD! ph), 7th Reg rec.
Black-bellied Plover: arr FH 22 Jul; DL 2 Aug, only rep away from LOS; max 4 FH 14 Aug & 4 SP 24 Aug.
Am. Golden-Plover: arr 2 SP 14 -15 Aug, reps from SP only.
Semipalmated Plover: last Altmar 6 Jun; arr DL 23 Jul; max 12 DL 2 Aug; 10 Herkimer 25 Aug.
PIPING PLOVER: max 6 SP 29 Jun (AK), 2 ad & 4 y, all banded; 2 ad & 4 fl SP 25 – 26 Jul, (AK, MB, ph).
Killdeer: 32 OnonL 17 Aug; max 35 SHTF 19 Aug.
Upland Sandpiper: 2 Deerfield 1 – 8 Jun, only loc.
Whimbrel: arr FH 17 Jul; max 5 FH 24 Jul (DD); all reps from FH.
Ruddy Turnstone: arr DL 22 Jul; 6 SP 25 Jul; max 7 FH 7 Aug (DD).
Red Knot: arr & max 6 FH 22 Jul; SP 26 Aug; only locs.
Stilt Sandpiper: arr SP 11 – 13 Aug; MNWR east 24 Aug; only reps.
Sanderling: arr 125 FH 22 Jul; 150 OswH 23 Jul; max 350 SP 25 Jul (MB); great numbers.
Dunlin: FH 3 Jun, only report.
Baird's Sandpiper: arr 2 DL 23 Jul; 2 FH 17 – 22 Aug; 2 OnonL 22 Aug.
Least Sandpiper: last Holland Patent 28 Jun; arr OLC 16 Jul; max 16 FH 22 Jul; 14 DL 23 Jul.
White-rumped Sandpiper: last SP 21 Jun; arr SP 13 Aug; max 12 SP 14 Aug (MB), good number.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 10 DL 26 Jul; 4 SP 14 Aug; few reports.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: last 2 SP 21 Jun; arr OLC 16 Jul; 45 OnonL 24 Jul; max 125 DL 26 Jul.
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr & max 13 FH 17

Jul (GD); 2 DL 26 Jul; 3 SP 25 Aug; singles at one oth loc.

Am. Woodcock: max 6 TR 25 Jun; 2 Belgium 11 Aug.

Wilson's Snipe: max 3 Deerfield 10 Jun; 2 Dolge 22 Jun; few reps.

Spotted Sandpiper: max 5 OLC 24 – 26 Jul; 4 Jamesville 25 Jul; 4 SP 11 Aug.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr WP 13 Jul; max 11 West Eaton 20 Jul.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Eaton 16 Jul; max 12 DL 26 Jul; 7 MNWR east 24 Aug.

Willet: arr & max 6 SP 9 Jul (CSH, ph); FH 23 Jul (GD); Dolge 22 – 24 Jul; 2 Oswego 24 Jul (JG, mob); 4 FH 17 Aug (DD, ph); good showing.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr 2 FH 17 Jul; 4 OnonL 24 Jul; max 7 SP 25 Jul.

Parasitic Jaeger: 2 FH 22 Aug (GD, BP, DW), only rep.

Bonaparte's Gull: arr SB 5 Jul; 10 DL 26 Jul; max 19 SP 26 Aug.

Ring-billed Gull: max 1800 OswH 18 Jul.

Herring Gull: max 200 OswH 22 Aug; 157 FH 30 Aug; pr produced y for first time in many years on 4th Lake, ADK (GL).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: FH 21 Jul (JM, LS), unusual in summer.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 6 SB 24 Jul & 6 SP 19 Aug.

Caspian Tern: 115 FH 22 Jul; max 420 SP 11 Aug (JM, LS), good number.

Black Tern: 5 SSSP 16 Jun; max 6 FH 22 Aug; only locs.

Com. Tern: max 110 SP 11 Aug; 72 Brewerton 22 Aug; see *intro*.

Com. Tern/Forster's Tern: 3 OnonL 8 Jul.

LOONS - PARROTS

Com. Loon: OnonL 13 Jun; max 7 OF 18 Jul; all but one rep from ADK; 22 prs produced 14 y HERK, ADK (GL).

Double-crested Cormorant: max 500 SP 11 Aug.

Am. Bittern: Deerfield 1 Jun; Dolgeville 30 Jun; SSSP 16 Jul; TR 20 Aug; only 2 oth reps of singles.

Least Bittern: Hamlin Marsh 1 – 7 Jun; DeWitt 7 Jun; UM 8 Jun; TR 9 Jun; HI 15 Jun; Utica 1 Jul, stored prey of resident Peregrines, *intro*; 4 oth reps of singles.

Great Blue Heron: max 75 SNC 3 Jun, rookery; 35 SP 11 Aug.

Great Egret: max 9 MNWR east 5 Jun & 9 DL 26 Jul; 8 Belgium 29 Jul; 8 OLC 9 Aug; widespread.

SNOWY EGRET (R7): HI 26 Aug (CW).

Green Heron: max 11 WP 15 Aug.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 2 OnonL 2 Jul, singles OnonL thru; Belgium 28 Aug.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (R7): ad Brewerton 10 Jul (DWa).

Turkey Vulture: 74 FH 18 Jul; max 95 Canastota 5 Aug.

Osprey: max 6 Oswego 22 Jul; 5 OLC 27 Jul – 22 Aug; widespread.

Bald Eagle: Madison 13 Jun (JS), injured fledgling taken to KK; max 20 DH 21 Jul; 8 SP 18 Aug; 11 DH 25 Aug.

N. Harrier: 2 Erieville 6 Jul; less than 20 reps of singles.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 2 TR 19 Jul; max 3 SFNS 24 – 25 Aug; relatively few reps.

Cooper's Hawk: max 3 Clay 25 Jul; 2 VBSP 30 Jul – 2 Aug; BLNC 20 Jul.

N. Goshawk: Sangerfield 1 Jun, only rep.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Bernhards Bay 11 Jul (JS), orphaned fledgling taken to KK; max 2 Williamstown 24 Aug; only 11 oth reps.

Broad-winged Hawk: 4 DH 12 Jul; max 41 DH 25 Aug.

Red-tailed Hawk: Rome 22 Jun (DS), orphaned nestling taken to FHR; New Hartford 12 Aug (DS), injured nestling taken to FHR; max 84 DH 25 Aug.

E. Screech-Owl: Utica 26 Jun (DS), nestling falls from nest; 2 HI 29 Jul; 2 Warren 25 Aug; singles, 12 oth locs.

Great Horned Owl: 2 Clay 4 Jun; 2 Pompey 14 Jun; 2 Salisbury 19 Jun; 2 Noyes Sanctuary 10 Jul; only 7 oth reps.

Barred Owl: max 4 GLSP 10 Jul; 3 Nick's Lake, ADK 18 Aug.

Belted Kingfisher: 6 OF 5 Jul; 6 DL 19 Jul; max 9 DB 30 Aug.

Red-headed Woodpecker: max 8 FH 7 Jul; 2 VB 1 Aug; 3 Cleveland 4 Aug; reps from 2 other locs.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: 5 SH 11 Jun; max 8 HI 15 Jun.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 4 SFNS 12 Jun – 10 Jul; max 5 Durhamville 7 Jul & 5 SH 13 Jul.

Black-backed Woodpecker: OF 11 Aug, only rep.

Downy Woodpecker: max 12 CM 18 Jul; 7 Rome 5 Aug.

Hairy Woodpecker: max 7 HI 9 Jun; 6 Dolge 8 Jul.

N. Flicker: 13 SFNS 21 Aug; max 15 SH 23 Aug.

Pileated Woodpecker: max 4 HI 9 – 15 Jun & 4 OF 5 Jul.

Am. Kestrel: 3 Tully 6 Jul, confirmed br; Rome 9 Jul (DS), orphaned nestling taken to FHR; Westmoreland 26 Jul (DS), orphaned nestling taken to FHR; 4 SH 7 – 26 Aug; max 5 GLSP 12 Aug; 4 Bville 13 Aug.
Merlin: max 4 Const 24 Jul, nest; 3 Pulaski 26 Jul; 3 nests in HERK, ADK (GL).
Peregrine Falcon: max 5 Utica 1 Jun – 18 Aug, three fledged from nest; singles, 4 oth locs.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last Syr 2 Jun; arr WP 19 Aug; only 3 oth reps.
E. Wood-Pewee: max 15 HI 9 Jun; 11 Syr 31 Jul; 10 VB 7 Aug.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: reps from 8 locs.
Acadian Flycatcher: max 2 SNC 3 Jun; singles WH 9 Jun – 8 Aug; only reps.
Alder Flycatcher: 11 TR 3 Jun; 4 SFNS 10 Jun.
Willow Flycatcher: 6 DeWitt 7 Jun; 6 HI 15 Jun..
Alder/Willow Flycatcher: max 3 HI 8 Jul.
Least Flycatcher: max 8 Redfield 6 Jun; 4 Moss Lake, ADK 16 Jun; 4 SFNS 21 Aug.
E. Phoebe: 6 Dolge 9 Jul; 9 SH 25 Jul.
Great Crested Flycatcher: 7 HI 9 Jun; 5 Rome 9 Jun; 6 VB 22 Jun; max 13 CM 26 Jul.
E. Kingbird: max 22 Sangerfield 24 Aug; 14 Richfield Springs 25 Aug.
Yellow-throated Vireo: max 4 HI 9 – 22 Jun; 3 WH 30 Jun.
Blue-headed Vireo: max 4 OF 19 Jun & 4 SH 19 Jun; reps from 15 oth locs.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr Belgium 20 Aug; 2 SH 23 Aug; 2 VB 30 Aug; reps from 2 oth locs.
Warbling Vireo: max 43 HI 9 Jun; 8 VB 7 Aug.
Red-eyed Vireo: 20 OF 1 Jun; max 31 Redfield 6 Jun; 21 HI 9 Jun.
Canada Jay: OF 8 Jul, only rep.
Blue Jay: max 35 SFNS 23 Aug; 20 Belgium 23 Aug.
Am. Crow: max 108 DB 30 Jul.
Fish Crow: 2 OF 8 Jul; max 3 Syr 25 Jul; 2 Bville 3 Aug; Phoenix 31 Jul – 9 Aug; low numbers.
Com. Raven: 6 Elbridge 9 Jun; 6 HI 9 Jun; max 15 Ava 25 Aug.
Horned Lark: 3 Waterville 4 Jun; max 10 SHTF 28 Aug; singles at 2 other locs.
Purple Martin: 14 Cicero 25 Jul; 10 Belgium 20 Aug; 9 TR 26 Aug.
Tree Swallow: 51 SP 18 Aug; max 70 Sangerfield.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: 13 Little Falls 8

Jul; max 49 HI 11 Aug.
Bank Swallow: 20 Fulton 10 Jun; 20 Sterling 9 Jul; max 40 FH 27 Jul.
Cliff Swallow: 10 Phoenix 10 Jun; 5 Syr 10 Jun; max 14 Cicero 18 Jul (DW); singles & small num 8 other locs.
Barn Swallow: max 150 FH 27 Jul; 98 West Winfield 30 Jul.
Black-capped Chickadee: 18 Syr 19 Jul; max 24 SH 13 – 31 Aug.
Tufted Titmouse: 6 Cazenovia 14 Jul; max 8 SP 26 Aug.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 8 Fabius 1 Jul; 7 SH 28 Aug.
White-breasted Nuthatch: max 12 GLSP 23 Jun; 11 SH 31 Aug.
Brown Creeper: max 5 HI 9 Jun; 2 Skan 26 Jun; 2 Boonville 25 Aug.
House Wren: 9 Clay 22 Jun; max 10 New Hartford 29 Jun.
Winter Wren: max 4 OF 11 Aug; most reps from ADK.
Marsh Wren: max 10 HI 9 June; 8 Madison 5 Aug.
Carolina Wren: max 4 SH 25 Jun; 3 Manlius 27 Jun; 3 Syr 13 Aug.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 18 HI 9 Jun; 4 TR 19 Jun; 4 DB 4 Aug.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 3 SH 13 Jul; max 4 OF 11 Aug.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: OF 17 Jun, only report.
E. Bluebird: max 14 Central Square 23 – 24 Jul; 11 HI 26 Aug.
Veery: max 17 HI 9 Jun; 8 SSSP 16 Jun; 11 VB 22 Jun.
Swainson's Thrush: OF 1 Jun – 18 Jul; SFNS 28 Aug; only reps.
Hermit Thrush: max 10 Rome 22 Jun; 7 Williamstown 12 Jul.
Wood Thrush: max 14 HI 9 Jun; 13 GLSP 4 – 10 Jul; 8 WH 7 Jul.
Am. Robin: max 35 Syr 30 Jun; 33 UM 26 Jul.
Gray Catbird: max 25 CM 20 Jun; 20 GLSP 23 Jul; 16 Chittenango 28 Aug.
Brown Thrasher: max 5 GLSP 10 Jun – 7 Jul; 4 Earlville 27 Jun.
N. Mockingbird: 2 Utica 26 Jun, br; max 3 Syr 17 – 22 Aug; 2 Oswego 22 Aug.
Cedar Waxwing: 65 Richfield Springs 25 Aug; max 70 SFNS 31 Aug.
House Sparrow: max 60 Clay 3 Jul.
House Finch: 8 Fayetteville 30 Jul; 11 Dolge 12 Aug; max 15 Syr 22 Aug.
Purple Finch: max 19 Dolge 12 Aug; best numbers HERK.

Red Crossbill: 2 OF 5 Jul, only rep.
Pine Siskin: 3 OF 1 Jun; 8 SH 8 Jun; 3 Dolge 3 Jul.
Am. Goldfinch: max 100 DB 4 Aug; 48 SP 31 Aug.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS _ CARDINALIDS

E. Towhee: max 15 GLSP 4 Jul; 8 Hast 18 Jul; 7 SH 31 Aug.
Chipping Sparrow: max 35 Syr 19 Jul; 20 VB 8 Aug.
Clay-colored Sparrow: max 3 SFNS 5 Jun (MP), br; GLSP 8 Aug; only locs.
Field Sparrow: 11 TR 3 Jun; max 17 GLSP 23 – 30 Jun.
Vesper Sparrow: Williamstown 19 Jul; GLSP 8 Aug; only reps.
Savannah Sparrow: 6 Richfield Springs 25 Aug; max 8 New Woodstock 27 Aug.
Grasshopper Sparrow: max 2 TR 16 – 20 Jun; Norway 24 Jun; New Woodstock 5 Jul; only reps.
Song Sparrow: 42 TR 8 Jun; max 50 HI 9 Jun.
Swamp Sparrow: 17 Bville 13 Jul; 16 CM 26 Jul; max 20 VB 31 Jul.
White-throated Sparrow: max 10 OF 5 Jul; most reps from ADK.
Dark-eyed Junco: 10 OF 29 Jul; max 21 Little Falls 19 Aug.
YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: Baltimore Woods Nature Center 19 Jun, MAPS banding (AK).
Bobolink: max 74 TR 13 Aug; 37 Sangerfield 24 Aug; 62 Richfield Springs 25 Aug.
E. Meadowlark: 3 Hamilton 23 Jun – 7 Jul; max 5 GLSP 13 Jul; reps from only 7 locs.
Orchard Oriole: 5 SFNS 18 Jul, br; max 11 GLSP 13 Jul.
Baltimore Oriole: 10 Fayetteville 9 Jun; max 20 HI 15 Jun.
Red-winged Blackbird: 150 TR 13 Jul; max 1800 MNWR east 29 Jul.
Brown-headed Cowbird: 18 Cold Brook 24 Jun; max 30 HI 8 Jul.
Com. Grackle: max 500 SFNS 30 Aug; 355 Tully 31 Aug.
Ovenbird: 14 HI 9 Jun; max 16 SH 21 Jun; 14 Rome 22 Jun.
Louisiana Waterthrush: 2 Orwell 6 Jun; 2 Boonville 14 Jun; 2 Manlius 24 Jun; reps from only 3 oth locs.
N. Waterthrush: max 5 Hubbardsville 9 Jun; 3 TR 9 Jun.
Blue-winged Warbler: max 4 Erieville 20 Jun; 3 Hast 20 Jul; 4 HI 26 Aug.

Golden-winged/Blue-winged Warbler: singles, 5 locs.
Black-and-white Warbler: max 4 OF 5 Jul; 2 OLC 30 Aug.
Prothonotary Warbler: max 8 HI 9 Jun (JM, LS), 2 prs PR br; DL 10 Jun, (MW), PR br.
Tennessee Warbler: arr Richfield Springs 25 Aug; 4 other reps.
Nashville Warbler: max 7 OF 5 Jul; 2 Williamstown 13 Jul – 9 Aug; 2 SH 13 Aug; 2 Hast 31 Aug.
Mourning Warbler: max 4 SH 1 Jun & 4 Redfield 6 Jun & 4 WH 30 Jun.
Com. Yellowthroat: 19 GLSP 30 Jun; max 25 OF 5 Jul; 16 VB 2 Aug.
Hooded Warbler: 2 WH 5 – 30 Jun; 2 SFNS 10 Jun; max 8 Kirkland 14 Jul.
Am. Redstart: 11 Redfield 6 Jun; max 48 HI 9 Jun; 19 CM 20 Jun.
Cape May Warbler: arr Hast 19 Aug; 4 OLC 27 Aug; max 5 Hast 31 Aug.
Cerulean Warbler: 2 SH 1 Jun; max 31 HI 9 Jun (JM, LS), good number; singles at 4 other locs.
N. Parula: max 10 OF 5 Jul; Brewerton 27 Aug.
Magnolia Warbler: 5 Sangerfield 1 Jun; max 12 OF 5 Jul.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Hast 23 Aug; max 2 HI 26 Aug; 2 Hast 27 Aug; 2 SFNS 31 Aug.
Blackburnian Warbler: max 10 OF 1 Jun; 6 Sangerfield 1 Jun; 6 Redfield 6 Jun.
Yellow Warbler: 45 HI 15 Jun; 30 CM 20 Jun; 17 OLC 24 Jul.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 15 OF 5 Jul; 9 SH 24 Aug.
Blackpoll Warbler: OF 2 Jun; Syr 3 Jun; arr OLC 25 Aug; 3 other reps.
Bay-breasted/Blackpoll Warbler: Barneveld 21 Aug; SFNS 23 Aug.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 12 OF 1 Jun; 3 SH 1 Jun; most reps from ADK.
Palm Warbler: SP 26 Jul (AK), early.
Pine Warbler: max 4 TR 1 Jun; 3 Great Bear Recreational Area 10 Jun.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 12 OF 19 Jun; 8 Lake Julia 21 Jun; 6 Rome 22 Jun.
Prairie Warbler: Happy Valley 7 Jun; 2 GLSP 16 Jun; Georgetown 16 Jun – 13 Jul; SFNS 19 Aug; only reports.
Black-throated Green Warbler: 6 OF 1 Jun; 4 SH 1 June & 31 Aug.
Canada Warbler: max 3 OF 1 Jun & 3 SH 9 Jun.
Wilson's Warbler: last SNC 2 Jun; arr & max 2 Hast 23 Aug; 2 oth reps.

Scarlet Tanager: 6 HI 15 Jun; 6 GLSP 23 Jun; max 7 Camillus 9 Jul.
N. Cardinal: 12 Fayetteville 1 Jun; 14 CM 20 Jun; max Clay 28 Jun.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 6 Dolge 5 Jun; max 15 HI 15 Jun; 6 Rome 19 Jul.
Indigo Bunting: 6 GLSP 23 Jun; max 14 Richfield Springs 25 Aug.

REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

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Both temperature and precipitation were close to average for most of the Region in June. July and August were very warm, averaging 3-5 degrees above normal for most of the Region, but precipitation was about normal both months. One of the surprises of the season was that, despite roughly average precipitation this season and normal or above normal precipitation for most of the previous six months, many areas away from the Region's largest lakes and rivers were very dry.

Water levels on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River were significantly lower than the record high levels from the spring and summer of 2017, but were still high enough during the early and mid-summer to severely limit shorebird habitat. Lake levels dropped enough by late July to expose a modest amount of shoreline, where generally small numbers of shorebirds were seen including several Regionally rare species. On 26 July Matthew Brown photographed a juvenile **Piping Plover** that was banded at an Oswego County nest earlier in the summer, apparently the only sighting of this endangered species in Jefferson County this year, and one of very few sightings in the county since the successful nesting at Lakeview WMA in 2015. On 28 July a group of visiting birders found a **Willet** at El Dorado, and on 25 August Tony Shrimpton saw a Red Knot and Ruddy Turnstone at the same location. Unfortunately, as has become the norm along the Jefferson County shoreline, shorebirds did not linger at any given site for very long, and most of the rare shorebirds were not seen by anybody who chased them. In fact most visits to El Dorado and other lake sites turned up very few shorebirds and sometimes none at all.

Sites away from the immediate Lake Ontario or St. Lawrence River shorelines were very dry all season. Many ponds and wetlands were lower than anybody could remember seeing in many years, and mudflats and shallow wetlands were uncharacteristically common and widespread. Small numbers of shorebirds were noted at many such sites, and, although it seemed like more shorebirds should have been present in some of these wetlands given the ideal conditions, it is likely that so much habitat was spread out over such a large area

that there was no reason for shorebirds to be concentrated anywhere. One exception was the Stone Mills Pool at Perch River WMA, where vast mudflats attracted large numbers of shorebirds that were unfortunately often too distant from any accessible vantage point for easy identification. Yellowlegs of both species were especially abundant here, but the most unusual species were a Stilt Sandpiper on 28 July, probably the same individual Tom Burke and Gail Benson found at nearby Perch Lake on 26 July, and a Wilson's Phalarope on 31 August.

Colonial water birds continue to exhibit a great deal of change on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. For a few years it seemed like DEC efforts to control Double-crested Cormorant numbers were at least slowing down population increases in the Eastern Lake Ontario basin, but since a court order stopped depredation efforts cormorant numbers have resumed their increase. The Little Galloo colony had more nests than in any year since 2011, and record numbers of cormorant nests were on St. Lawrence River islands. Gull Island, which until recently had been the only island in the eastern end of Lake Ontario with nesting Black-crowned Night-Herons, had no nests for the second consecutive year, and the night-heron rookery seems to have been abandoned. Perhaps some of these night-herons moved to the Murphy Islands colony on the St. Lawrence River, where the 118 nests counted by DEC was about double the number documented the past few years. The 2700 Caspian Tern nests DEC counted on Little Galloo Island was another record, but Common Tern nest counts on the St. Lawrence River were down for the second consecutive year after several good years.

Tent caterpillars were widely reported to be abundant this year so it wasn't too surprising to hear numerous cuckoos of both species in early June, and the season's tally of 23 Yellow-billed Cuckoos was well above normal. As many as 10 Black-billed Cuckoos per day were heard calling on Fort Drum early in June, but soon after that cuckoos seemed to stop vocalizing, and the season's tally seemed low given the number that were conspicuous early in the summer.

Golden-winged Warblers receive a great deal of attention in Region 6, but Blue-winged Warblers continue their inexorable expansion north. The Indian River Lakes region in recent years has seemed like the last hope in northern New York for a healthy Golden-winged Warbler population with minimal Blue-winged Warbler influence, but the five Blue-wings compared to 23 Golden-wings reported from the Indian River Lakes this season is, while not a large sample, a higher ratio of Blue-winged Warblers to Golden-winged Warblers than has been reported from the immediate area in past years. This, combined with a high count of three Blue-winged Warblers that Ben Dixon found in Dekalb on 12 June, none of which showed any visible indication of hybridization in a part of the St. Lawrence Valley where pure-looking Blue-winged Warblers have remained scarce, illustrates the continuing expansion of this species in Region 6. What remains something of a mystery is why Blue-winged Warblers seem to be increasing at such a slower rate north of about

Antwerp compared with lowland areas just a short distance to the south, where they surpassed Golden-winged Warblers in abundance several years ago.

Grassland birds are typically the main draw to birders visiting Region 6 from elsewhere, and many such visitors were rewarded this season. Henslow's Sparrows were reported from three locations, with a maximum of 11 at Perch River WMA, but at least three at Chaumont Barrens were the easiest to see and were observed by many after being initially reported by Greg Dashnau. Short-eared Owls nested in the Region again this year, with one pair at Fort Drum and another at Ashland Flats WMA, the latter seen by many observers. A group of Rochester birders observed another Short-eared Owl near Chaumont Barrens on 8 July, but this was the only report from this frequently birded area all season, so it is unclear whether it represents a third nesting site. The 33 Sedge Wrens reported this season was the highest tally since 2009 and included a maximum count of 23 at Fort Drum on 8 July. Many birders saw at least one Sedge Wren in a Canton field that was mostly mowed about 5 July, but where one male continued for at least a month in a small fragment of the field that was not mowed. Only one Upland Sandpiper was reported away from Fort Drum this season.

As is often the case a couple of birds were noticed in unusual locations, although not as many as last summer. Gerry Smith found two **Fish Crows** in Watertown on 21 July, the only report of this species in several years. Fish Crow was reported as possibly breeding in three Watertown-area blocks during the second Breeding Bird Atlas, but there were no more reports until Gerry's this summer. Perhaps more attention needs to be paid to crows in the Watertown area or elsewhere along the Black River to determine whether there are local breeders. Another species that may be overlooked as a breeder in lowland areas of Region 6 is Philadelphia Vireo, which appears to be mostly restricted to the Adirondacks. A Philadelphia Vireo returned to a Fort Drum territory for the second year, and on 25 July a bird that sounded like this species was heard in another spot on Fort Drum, but unfortunately was singing from an off-limits area and could not be seen to be sure it wasn't a Red-eyed Vireo.

The summer season's species tally was 212, a relatively high total for Region 6 during summer although not as high as last year's record-tying count. Given the increase in attention Region 6 has received from birders in the eBird era, such tallies are probably going to continue in the future, and it seems reasonable to expect even higher tallies in the coming years.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AFWMA – Ashland Flats WMA; **CB** – Chaumont Barrens preserve, T Clayton; **CCSP** – Coles Creek SP; **CV** – T Cape Vincent; **ED** – El Dorado Preserve, T Ellisburg; **FiC** – Fish Creek WMA; **FD** – Fort Drum Military Reservation; **FL** – Fisher’s Landing, T Alexandria; **FrC** – French Creek WMA; **IRL** – Indian R Lakes; **JEFF** – Jefferson County; **KPSP** – Kring Point SP; **LBSF** – Lonesome Bay State Forest, T Hammond; **LGI** – Little Galloo I; **LWMA** – Lakeview WMA, T Ellisburg; **MM** – Massawepie Mire, T Piercefield and Colton; **PilPt** – Pillar Pt; **PRWMA** – Perch River WMA; **PtPen** – Point Peninsula; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP; **RRt** – Remington Recreation Trail, T Canton; **SLR** – St. Lawrence R; **StGW** – St. Lawrence Grassland and Wetland Management District, T Dekalb; **STLA** – St. Lawrence County; **StPt** – Stony Pt, T Henderson; **ULLWMA** – Upper and Lower Lakes WMA, T Canton; **WEP** – Winona Experimental Forest, T Ellisburg; **WHWMA** – Wilson Hill WMA; **WI** – Wellesley I; **WP** – Whalen P, T Louisville.

WATERFOWL - HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: 2 T Brownville 6 Aug (LE), rare but increasingly regular in summer.

Mute Swan: max 4 WI 4 Aug.

Trumpeter Swan: multiple reports FD, PRWMA, ULLWMA, WHWMA & Hunneyman Road T Redwood; increasing.

Wood Duck: max 150 WHWMA 24 Aug.

Blue-winged Teal: 2 AFWMA 6 Jun; PRWMA 12-28 Jun; T Hammond 15 Jun; 2 T Potsdam 23 Jun; ULLWMA 11 & 27 Jul; only reports before Aug; many reports late Aug, incl max 125 PRWMA 31 Aug.

N. Shoveler: AFWMA 15 Jul (SK), only report before 25 Aug; max 2 FL 27 Aug.

Gadwall: max 6 PRWMA 22 Aug.

Am. Wigeon: singles PRWMA, ULLWMA, & PtPen Jul; max 3 PRWMA 26 Aug.

Am. Black Duck: Jun-Jul max 4 ULLWMA 6 Jul & L Bonaparte 26 Jul; many more reports late Aug; max 18 PRWMA.

N. Pintail: arr PRWMA 18 Aug.

Green-winged Teal: WHWMA 9 Jun; ULLWMA 11 Jul; only reports before 27 July; max 60 WHWMA 25 Aug.

Ring-necked Duck: max 87 ULLWMA date, where nesting common; 2 WHWMA 12 Jul, only report away from ULLWMA before late Jul.

Bufflehead: m ULLWMA thru 19 Jun.

Hooded Merganser: max 13 PRWMA 15 Aug.

Com. Merganser: max 35 ED 31 Aug.

Red-breasted Merganser: 6 WHWMA 12 Aug (BB), only report.

Ruddy Duck: ULLWMA 7 Aug (JB), only report.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 44 ULLWMA 16 Aug.

Red-necked Grebe: ULLWMA 19-20 Jun (JB, EW), rare in summer.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 23 ind 20 locations, more than usual.

Black-billed Cuckoo: max 10 FD 3 Jun; about 35 reports elsewhere, surprisingly low given a tent caterpillar year, *intro*.

Com. Nighthawk: 2-5/day FD thru; PRWMA 24 Jun, only report away from FD before Aug; migr 18 Aug thru; max 32 FD 27 Aug.

E. Whip-poor-will: max 59 FD night 29-30 Jun.

RAILS - LARIDS

Virginia Rail: max 5 FiC 20 Jun.

Sora: only 6 reports from 5 locations; max 2 AFWMA 25 Jun.

Com. Gallinule: max 13 PRWMA 31 Aug.

Am. Coot: PRWMA 16 Jun & ULLWMA 11 Jul.

Sandhill Crane: 2 WHWMA thru (BD) but nesting not confirmed; likely migrants T Watertown 6 Jun (BM) & WI 31 Aug (CF); FrC WMA 23 Jun (NL).

Black-bellied Plover: 16 rep 19 Aug thru; max 14 ED 25 Aug.

Am. Golden-Plover: FL 27 Aug (CF), only report.

Semipalmated Plover: max 24 WHWMA 6 Aug.

PIPING PLOVER: banded juv from Oswego County nest LWMA 26 Jul (MB, photos!), only report, *intro*.

Killdeer: max 50 PRWMA 15 Aug.

Upland Sandpiper: 5-6 territories FD Jun & Jul; T LaFargeville 4 Jul (LE), only other rep before Aug; flight calls T Canton 16 Aug (JB).

Ruddy Turnstone: ED 25 Aug, only report.

Red Knot: ED 25 Aug (AS, ph!), rare R6.

Stilt Sandpiper: Perch L 26 Jul (GB, TB); likely same ind PRWMA 28 Jul (JB); only reports.

Sanderling: 7 rep 26 Jul thru; 1 over ULLWMA marsh 16 Aug; unusual loc; max 9 ED 31 Aug.

Baird's Sandpiper: PRWMA 31 Aug, only report.

White-rumped Sandpiper: PRWMA 26 Aug; WI 27 Aug; only reports.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 12 PRWMA 15 Aug.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 17 RMSP 27 Jul.

Short-billed Dowitcher: 4 rep PRWMA 16-26 Jul; max 6 PRWMA 26 Jul; no other reports.

Spotted Sandpiper: max 7 T Watertown 5 Jul.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr Ogdensburg 7 Jul; max 3 T Canton 28 Aug.

Lesser Yellowlegs: 2 arr AFWMA 20 Jun (RB), early; max 90 PRWMA 15 Aug.

WILLET (R6): ED 28 Jul (JA, JC, AM, ph!).

Greater Yellowlegs: arr PilPt 7 Jul; max 35 PRWMA 18 Aug.

Wilson's Phalarope: PRWMA 31 Aug (JB), only report.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 25 Grindstone I 4 Aug.

Ring-billed Gull: no count LGI this year; 1662 nests Murphy Islands.

Herring Gull: max 1156 nests LGI.

Great Black-backed Gull: no nests L Ontario or SLR.

Caspian Tern: 2700 nests LGI 6 Jun (IM), record high.

Black Tern: max 20 AFWMA 2 Jul.

Com. Tern: 1048 nests SLR similar to 2017 but fewer than 2014-2016 (LH).

LOONS - PARROTS

Double-crested Cormorant: max 2769 nests LGI, highest count since 2011 (IM); **3491 nests** New York & Canadian islands SLR, record high; *intro*.

Am. Bittern: max 6 FD 3 Jun.

Least Bittern: 13 rep 9 loc JEFF & STLA; better than most recent years but still underreported.

Great Egret: max 89 PRWMA 15 Aug (JB), apparent record high count JEFF.

Green Heron: max 8 AFWMA 28 Jul.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 118 nests Murphy Islands, record for loc; none Calf Island for second year after apparent displacement by cormorants.

Turkey Vulture: max 68 CV 1 Jul.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 11 rep.

Cooper's Hawk: 11 rep.

N. Goshawk: 7 rep 5 loc.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 6 rep 5 loc IRL area; only 4 rep elsewhere.

E. Screech-Owl: FD 2 Jun; 2 juv T Lowville 1 Jul; PRWMA 26 Aug; only reports.

Snowy Owl: 2 T Lyme thru at least 6 Jun, one electrocuted on power line (CW, mob).

Short-eared Owl: pr fledged y Jun AFWMA (mob); another juv on terr FD 29 Jun; unclear whether CB 8 Jul (mob) another terr.

N Saw-whet Owl: T Adams 5 Jun.

Red-headed Woodpecker: max 14 FD 3 Jul; T Antwerp 3 Jun; KPSP 23 Aug, only reports away from FD.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 3 T Dekalb 9 Jul, continuing to increase in St. Lawrence Valley.

Merlin: 14 rep throughout.

Peregrine Falcon: sev rep T Watertown 6 Jul thru, breeding likely; Aug reports from FD, L Bonaparte, & PRWMA.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Tug Hill WMA 15 Jun; 5 additional nesting loc SE STLA; migr arr FD 20 Aug, still present same loc 24 Aug; max 4 FD 27 Aug.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 4 MM 10 Jun; migr arr Trout L 12 Aug.

Alder Flycatcher: max 24 FD 1 Jun.

Philadelphia Vireo: terr m same location FD as 2017 thru 16 Jul, rare outside Adirondacks; T Colton only other Jun or Jul report; migr arr CV 13 Aug.

FISH CROW (R6): 2 T Watertown 21 Jul (GS), *intro*.

Sedge Wren: 3 singing m T Canton field 10 Jun, dropped to 1 m after most of field mowed around 5 Jul (JB, mob); CB 12 Jun (JS, KS); FrC WMA 16 Jun (NL); mult rep at least 2 loc PRWMA (ST, TT, KH, NL); max 23 FD 8 Jul (JB); 2 Otter Creek Preserve 17 Jul (SB, DD, CJ); StGW 21 Jul (JB).

Carolina Wren: 4 reports.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 3 ULLWMA 24 Jun & 30 Aug.

Swainson's Thrush: Brasher SF 13 Jul, rare before Aug outside Adirondacks & Tug Hill; migr arr T Canton 18 Aug.

N. Mockingbird: fewer FD than recent years.

Red Crossbill: about 20 rep throughout R6 thru 16 Jul, mostly of birds heard overhead.

Pine Siskin: max 21 Tooley Pond Road, T Clare & Clifton 10 Jul.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Clay-colored Sparrow: max 24 FD 3 Jul.

Vesper Sparrow: max 65 FD 25 Jun.

Grasshopper Sparrow: max 37 FD 3 Jul.

Henslow's Sparrow: 5 m FD June; max 11 m PRWMA June (IM, ET); 3 m CB 5-6 Jul, at least 3 fl 9 Jul (GD, mob).

Lincoln's Sparrow: max 8 MM 21 Jun.

Bobolink: flocking up by 8 Jul, when single flock 110 FD.

Orchard Oriole: T Rutland 12 Jun; T Lowville 1 Jul.

Rusty Blackbird: 2 T Fine 17 Jun.

Louisiana Waterthrush: WEP 12 Jul, only report.

Golden-winged Warbler: 23 IRL area Jun; max 6 FD 6 Jun.

Blue-winged Warbler: 3 T Dekalb 12 Jun high for so far north; 5 IRL area, where modestly increasing, *intro*; max 9 FD 13 & 20 Jun.

"Brewster's" Warbler: 9 FD Jun; 3 St. Lawrence Valley Jun.

"Lawrence's" Warbler: different locations FD 7 & 8 Jul (JB); CB 18 Jun (JS).

Tennessee Warbler: arr FD 20 Aug.

Mourning Warbler: max 12 MM area 10 Jun.

Hooded Warbler: max 7 WEP 12 Jul; WI 1 Jul, north of usual range (DA).

Cape May Warbler: last spring migrant FD 6 Jun, late; fall arr T Hammond 18 Aug.

Cerulean Warbler: max 7 Lonesome Bay SF 2 Jun.

N. Parula: last spring migr FD 1 Jun; fall migr arr Murray 1 18 Aug.

Magnolia Warbler: obvious migr arr FD 20 Aug.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr FD 20 Aug.

Blackpoll Warbler: last spring CB 5 Jun; fall arr ED 30 Aug.

"Yellow" Palm Warbler: max 10 MM 8 Jul; additional breeding reports from Horseshoe Bog & Hitchins Pond.

"Western" Palm Warbler: migr arr WHWMA 19 Aug.

Prairie Warbler: max 23 FD 23 Jun.

Wilson's Warbler: 3 arr FD 20 Aug.

REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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After a warmer than average May, June was at or below average except in the north of Region 7, where it was no more than 1°F above average. Precipitation for the months varied from 3 to 4 inches in Hamilton and Essex Counties, a departure from normal of from 1 to 2 inches. In Franklin and Clinton Counties, the northern half of Region 7, precipitation ranged from 4 to 5 inches, which represented a departure of up to two inches more than normal. July was dry throughout Region 7. Rain totals, up to two inches below normal, did not exceed

three inches anywhere. The month was also unusually warm, registering temperatures from 3° to 5° above normal everywhere except in the high peaks area, where it was only 1° to 3° above normal. At least one area of Clinton County recorded a departure of +6°. The unusually warm and dry weather continued throughout August. Precipitation totals did not exceed three inches anywhere in the Region, at least an inch below average. Once again the average temperatures were from 3° to 5° above normal throughout except in the high peaks region, where the range was only 1° to 3° hotter.

The water level of Lake Champlain began the season at a little more than 97.6 feet. At this level the mudflats at the Chazy Riverlands were flooded. They remained underwater until the very end of the spring shorebird migration, when a small, newly exposed area attracted a smattering of peeps on 9 June. From that time on the lake level dropped through the entire season in a nearly perfect curve that at the end of August approached 94.2 feet almost asymptotically. This perfectly reflected the dry months of July and August and exposed the mudflats at the Chazy Riverlands precisely at the wrong time between the spring and fall migrations. By early August, most of the mudflat area was dry and by the end of the month the grasses were ankle high. These lake levels at Noblewood Park were, if anything, an improvement. Most of the shorebird activity of the early fall migration occurred there.

A female **Spruce Grouse** with five chicks was found on Keese Mills Road in Franklin County, one of the only spots where this species is known to breed in Region 7. **Sandhill Crane** bred for the third year in a row at Saranac Lake. A **Brown Booby** landed on the mast of Tom Whitney's sailboat and "stayed for a really long time" while posing for photos and videos. A **Common Loon** survey by Gary Lee in Hamilton County found successful pairs on at least eight lakes, with as many as three on Raquette Lake. The discovery of a **Red-bellied Woodpecker** pair feeding young in a nest cavity was the first confirmation of breeding of this species in Clinton County.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Ausable Point; **BG** – Bloomingdale Bog; **BM** – Blue Mt Rd; **BR** – Bull Rock Rd; **Con** – Constable; **CH** – Cumberland Head; **CP** – Crown Pt; **CR** – Chazy Riverlands; **CZ** – Chazy; **ET** – Elizabethtown; **GM** – Giant Mt; **HB** – Hoisington Brook; **KB** –

Kings Bay; **KV** – Keene Valley; **KM** – Keese Mill Rd; **LA** – Lake Alice; **LC** – La Chute; **LCI** – Lake Clear; **LL** – Long L; **LM** – Lyon Mt; **LPd** – Long Pd; **MF** – Miner Flat Rock; **MM** – Maple Meadows; **MR** – Moose R Plains; **MtD** – Mt Defiance; **NP** – Noblewood P; **PB** – Plattsburgh; **PC** – Putts Creek WMA; **PH** – Port Henry; **PtF** – Point au Fer; **PtR** – Point Au Roche SP; **PU** – Peru; **SB** – Stevenson Bay; **SC** – Scomotiion Creek; **SLB** – Silver L Bog; **SR** – Saranac R Mouth; **TL** – Tupper L; **TMa** – Ti Marsh; **WF** – Whiteface Mt.

WATERFOWL- HUMMINGBIRDS

Canada Goose: 6ad, 11y AP 8 Jun (BK), CO-FL.
Wood Duck: 50 TMa 20 Aug (GC); 40 LA 23 June (SR), CO-FL.
Blue-winged Teal: CR 29 June; NP 13 Aug (CV).
Gadwall: CR 29 Jun.
Am. Wigeon: CR 7 Jun.
Am Black Duck: 4 Ti 21 Aug (TB).
Green-winged Teal: 4 SC 31 Aug (NO).
Ring-necked Duck: 2 Essex 7 Aug (CV).
Lesser Scaup: CR 9 Aug (SR).
Com. Goldeneye: 2 AP 26 Aug (VH).
Hooded Merganser: 2SR 31 Aug (CV).
Com. Merganser: 1a, 12c CH 14 Jul (SJ), CO-FL.
Red-breasted Merganser: 10 NP 18 Aug (MM).
Ring-necked Pheasant: 2 Essex 7 Aug.
Ruffed Grouse: 7 LA 23 June (SR), CO-FL.
SPRUCE GROUSE: 6 KM 19 Jul (PM), CO-FL.
Wild Turkey: 20 BR 26 Aug (MC).
Pied-billed Grebe: AP 8 Jun.
Red-necked Grebe: SB 13 Aug (SR), early.
Black-billed Cuckoo: KM 19 Jul (PM); CP 8 Aug (G&MC).
Com. Nighthawk: 2 MF 20 Aug (NO).
E. Whip-poor-will: 6 MF 20 Aug (NO).
Chimney Swift: 4 TMa 11 Aug (GC), 16 Essex 21 Aug (SR).
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: CH 16 Jul (NO); CH 17 Jul (BK), CO-FL.

RAILS - LARIDS

Virginia Rail: 2 AP 8 Jun (BK); 3 TMa 11 Aug (GC), CO-FL.
Com. Gallinule: CR 9 Jun.
SANDHILL CRANE (R7): 2ad, 2y TL 30 Jun (AR); 2ad, 2y TL 23 Jul (GB), CO-FL, ph.
Black-bellied Plover: 4 NP 18 Aug (MM).
Am. Golden Plover: NP 18 Aug (MM).
Semipalmated Plover: 2 CP 9 Aug (SR).
Ruddy Turnstone: 7 NP 25 Aug (AB).

Sanderling: NP 13 Aug (CV); 8 NP 25 Aug (GC).
Baird's Sandpiper: NP 27 Aug (LM).
Least Sandpiper: 2 CP 12 Jun; 3 CP 9 Aug (SR).
Pectoral Sandpiper: HB 20 Aug (ED).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 30 CR 9 Jun.
WESTERN SANDPIPER: HB 20 Aug (ED).
Short-billed Dowitcher: NP 21 Aug (SR).
Am. Woodcock: 2 PB 5 June (TS).
Wilson's Snipe: 3 AP 8 Jul (J&PT).
Spotted Sandpiper: 7 CP 9 Aug (SR).
Solitary Sandpiper: NP 21 Aug (SR).
Lesser Yellowlegs: 12 NP 13 Aug (CV).
Greater Yellowlegs: CR 9 Jun.
Red-necked Phalarope: CP 16 Aug (SR).
Bonaparte's Gull: 198 NP 21 Aug (SR).
Little Gull: NP 13 Aug (SR).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: CP 13 Aug (SR).
Great Black-backed Gull: SR 31 Aug (CV).
Caspian Tern: 27 CP 9 Aug (SR).
Com. Tern: 20 NP 25 Aug (AB).

LOONS - PARROTS

Com. Loon: 4 CH 30 Aug (SJ); RL 3/5 pair CO-FL.
BROWN BOOBY: LL 25 Aug (TW), ph.
Double-crested Cormorant: 125 CP 16 Aug (SR).
Am. Bittern: CR 5 Jun.
Least Bittern: SC 26 Jun (NO); 2 AP 2 Aug (SR).
Great Blue Heron: 23 TMa 11 Aug (GC).
Great Egret: 5 TMa 11 Aug (GC).
Green Heron: 8 TMa 11 Aug (GC).
Black-crowned Night-Heron: AP 8 Jun.
Black Vulture: 4 PC 25 Aug (SR).
Turkey Vulture: 19 TMa 20 Aug (GC).
Osprey: 5 CR 28 Jul (BK), CO-NY.
Bald Eagle: TMa 20 Aug (GC).
N. Harrier: 2 LA 23 June (SR).
Sharp-shinned Hawk: SC 10 Aug (NO).
Cooper's Hawk: BR 29 Aug (MC).
N. Goshawk: ET 19 June (GC); KM 19 Jul (PM).
Red-shouldered Hawk: 2 PH 12 June (DT).

Broad-winged Hawk: SC 10 Aug (NO).
Red-tailed Hawk: TMA 20 Aug (GC).
E. Screech Owl: CP 9 Aug (SR).
Great Horned Owl: AP 8 Jun.
Barred Owl: 3 Chazy 9 Jul (GR), CO-FL.
N. Saw-whet Owl: MF 20 Aug (NO).
Belted Kingfisher: 6 SC 8 Jun (NO).
Red-bellied Woodpecker: AP 9 Jun (SR, ED), CO-FY, CLIN first.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 2 BR 2 Aug (MC), CO-FL.
Hairy Woodpecker: AP 8 June (BK), CO-FL.
Black-backed Woodpecker: BM 25 Aug (JM).
N. Flicker: 9 Con 30 Jun (TL).
Pileated Woodpecker: 2 BR 2 Aug (MC), COFL.
Am. Kestrel: SC 11 Jul (NO).
Merlin: SC 10 Aug (NO).
Peregrine Falcon: WF 19 Aug (KW).

FLYCATCHERS - SNOW BUNTING

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 2 Essex 11 Aug (DM).
E. Wood-Pewee: CH 18 Jun (NO).
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 7 LM 16 Jun (JS).
Alder Flycatcher: 2 Con 30 Jun (TL).
Willow Flycatcher: 2 AP 21 Jun.
Least Flycatcher: 3 Con 30 Jun (TL).
E. Phoebe: CH 26 Jun (NO), CO-NY.
Great Crested Flycatcher: SC 8 Jun (NO).
E. Kingbird: 5 Con 30 Jun (TL).
Yellow-throated Vireo: CP 16 Aug (SR).
Blue-headed Vireo: 2 BM 25 Aug (JM).
Philadelphia Vireo: MR 11 Jun (KS).
Warbling Vireo: 8 Con 30 Jun (TL).
Red-eyed Vireo: 4 NP 31 Aug (MM).
Canada Jay: 10 KM 19 Jul (DM).
Blue Jay: 6 PtR 4 Aug.
Fish Crow: Peru 5 Aug (CV).
Com. Raven: MM 24 Aug (SR).
Purple Martin: 7 CP 2 Aug (SR).
Tree Swallow: 5 AP 8 Jun, CO-FY.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: 2 CP 13 Aug (SR).
Bank Swallow: 59 CP 16 Aug (SR).
Cliff Swallow: CR 8 Jun (CW).
Barn Swallow: 31 CP 13 Aug (SR).
Boreal Chickadee: WF 19 Aug (KW).
Tufted Titmouse: 6 Chazy 18 Jul (BP).
Red-breasted Nuthatch: 3 MM 24 Aug (SR).
White-breasted Nuthatch: 2 MM 24 Aug (SR); AP 21Jun, CO-FL.
House Wren: 4 Chazy 9 Jul (GR).
Winter Wren: 7 LM 17 Jun (JS).
Marsh Wren: 3 AP 13 Jun.

Carolina Wren: PB 5 June (TS).
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: TMA 20 Aug (GC); 2 CP 25 Aug (SR).
Golden-crowned Kinglet: SPB 15 Jul (PA).
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 2 KM 19 Jul (DM).
Veery: 9 Con 30 Jun (TL).
Bicknell's Thrush: 4 WF 12 Aug (SG).
Swainson's Thrush: WF 12 Aug (KW).
Hermit Thrush: BR 2 Aug (MC).
Wood Thrush: Con 30 Jun (TL).
Am. Robin: LA 23 Jun (SR), CO-FL.
Gray Catbird: Keene 26 Aug (J&PT).
Brown Thrasher: WM 25 Aug (GC).
N. Mockingbird: CP 2 Aug (SR).
Cedar Waxwing: 5 Chazy 4 Aug (GR).
Evening Grosbeak: Kees 18 Jun (JP).
Purple Finch: 2 KM 19 Jul (DM).
Red Crossbill: 2 KV 16 Jun (TK).
White-winged Crossbill: 2 GM 12 Jun (DT).
Pine Siskin: NP 31 Aug (MM).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS - CARDINALS

E. Towhee: 3 MF 25 Jun (KA).
Chipping Sparrow: 4 CP 16 Aug (SR), CO-FY.
Field Sparrow: BR 2 Aug (MC).
Savannah Sparrow: CR 4 Aug (GR).
Lincoln's Sparrow: WF 12 Aug (SG).
Swamp Sparrow: 4 AP 2 Aug (SR).
White-throated Sparrow: 3 SLB 11 JUL (SF).
Bobolink: 23 CR 7 Jun.
E. Meadowlark: CR 11 Aug.
Baltimore Oriole: CP 16 Aug (SR).
Brown-headed Cowbird: WF 25 Aug (KC).
Rusty Blackbird: Ap 4 Aug (GR).
Com. Grackle: AP 8 Jun, CO-CF.
Ovenbird: MM 24 Aug (SR).
Louisiana Waterthrush: 2 MM 12 Aug (SR).
N. Waterthrush: SC 11 Jul (NO).
Blue-winged Warbler: WR 12 June (RB).
Black-and-white Warbler: CH 16 Aug (NO).
Tennessee Warbler: 3 CP 1 Aug (SR).
Nashville Warbler: 5 LM 16 June (JS).
Mourning Warbler: 2 FR 26 June (SR).
Com. Yellowthroat: NP 25 Aug (GC); 4 BR 2 Aug (MC), CO-CF.
Am. Redstart: PC 25 Aug (SR).
Cape May Warbler: 2 MM 24 Aug (SR).
N. Parula: PC 25 Aug (SR).
Magnolia Warbler: CP 16 Aug (SR).
Bay-breasted Warbler: 3 MM 24 Aug (SR).
Blackburnian Warbler: CP 22 Aug (MC).
Yellow Warbler: 3 AP 10 Jun.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: MM 24 Aug (SR).

Blackpoll Warbler: 2 WF 12 Aug (SG).
Black-throated Blue Warbler: CP 8 Aug
(G&MC).
Palm Warbler: 12 BB 10 Jul (AB).
Pine Warbler: MM 24 Aug (SR).
Yellow-rumped Warbler: 4 FR 26 June (SR).
Prairie Warbler: MtD 19 June (DD).

Black-throated Green Warbler: 15 LM 15
Jun (HM).
Canada Warbler: WF 12 Aug (SG).
Wilson's Warbler: BR 26 Aug (MC).
Scarlet Tanager: MM 24 Aug (SR).
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: CP 8 Aug
(G&MC); 4 BR 2 Aug (MC), COFY.
Indigo Bunting: CP 25 Aug (SR).



REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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The weather for June 2018 was marked by normal temperatures and a small deficit in the average rainfall. Albany recorded a high temperature of 97°F on the 18th and 94° on the 30th, but no prolonged heat occurred. Daily rainfall totals were one-half inch or less. July 2018 featured well-above normal temperatures, with a five-day heat wave to open the month. Temperatures ended up 4.7° higher than average. Precipitation was slightly higher than the norm, with most of it falling in the last ten days of the month. August 2018 was also very warm, at 5.0° above average, and the rainfall surplus was 0.74" at Albany. Overall it was a very humid, at times oppressive, summer.

Common Nighthawk reports were steady through the end of August, but overall numbers seemed to be down. The nighthawk watch at the Albany Pine Bush Preserve had very diminished numbers, with a high count of 31 birds on 29 August. The maximum reported number was 103 in Saratoga Springs on 19 August. The previously reported Chuck-wills-widow near West Mountain, Warren County, continued to be detected in late June into early July. Several observers obtained audio recordings of the vocalizations. Eastern Whip-poor-will numbers appeared to be stable across the area, with the notable bright spot the resurgence of calling birds at the Albany Pine Bush Preserve.

Shorebird numbers were down from recent seasons, with the wetter than normal conditions leading to higher water levels and less available habitat in this already shorebird-challenged Region. There were a couple of highlights however. A **Ruddy Turnstone** appeared at Cohoes Flats on 24 July and lingered for three days. On 25 August John Roosenberg found a **Baird's Sandpiper** in the grassy margins of a farm pond near Cobleskill. The bird stayed in the area for several days. Two more **Baird's Sandpipers** were discovered at Cohoes Flats on 30 August. They stuck around until the following day. A **Long-billed Dowitcher** was observed by David Harrison at Cohoes Flats on 7 August. He and two other birders obtained diagnostic photographs of the bird, which still retained much of its alternate plumage. There are no previous

eBird records of the species in Region 8, so it was certainly the first report in some time for the area.

Two juvenile Little Blue Herons appeared this year at Lock 2 on the Hudson River near Mechanicville, following consecutive years with a single juvenile present. The shallow, marshy backwater along the margins seems to be a magnet for wading birds during post-breeding dispersal. Many Great Blue Herons, Green Herons, and Great Egrets are seen there annually, and Snowy Egret has been found previously as well. An additional juvenile Little Blue Heron appeared at Nassau Lake, Rensselaer County on 19 August, seen by Naomi Lloyd.

A Snowy Egret made a one day appearance at Cohoes Flats on 1 June, first observed by Zach Schwartz-Weinstein. Rich Guthrie had a group of four Snowy Egrets along the Hudson River north of Athens, Greene County on 24 July, and a single bird seen from the New Baltimore side of the river on 23 August. Naomi King discovered an adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** at a small suburban pond near Defreestville on 2 August.

A Snowy Owl spent the Spring-Summer seasons in central Saratoga County, one of approximately thirty Snowy Owls to have been recorded "summering" in the United States in 2018 (S. Weidensaul, pers. comm.) The bird appeared to be in good health and was eating well, with regurgitated pellets regularly observed beneath one of its favored perches. A more detailed report may be forthcoming from the observer.

Paul Novak found an **Acadian Flycatcher** at the new Doodletown WMA in Columbia County on 12 June. He was conducting an avian point count as part of the NYS DEC Young Forest Initiative. **Sedge Wrens** were present this breeding season in at least four distinct locations in the vicinity of the Washington County Grasslands. The species seems to favor that area when found in our Region but can go undetected for years at a time. The last reports were from 2010 and 2012. Clay-colored Sparrow was present again this year in the Grasslands as well, with as many as three reported along the SF Trail there. Hooded Warbler continues its slow northward range expansion into Region 8, with singing males reported from the Albany Pine Bush Preserve and from a riparian corridor near Canajoharie in Montgomery County.

Bob Yunick provided a detailed account of his Adirondack feeding/banding operation at Jenny Lake (JL) at 1250' elevation, five miles west of Corinth, Saratoga Co, NY:

"The breeding season at JL was in two words: **very disappointing** in so many respects.

Purple Finch – a disastrous season! Ad were **late in arriving** on 5/13 and few in number: only 5 banded and 2 returns, **all m** in May. First ad/f banded 6/16 (very late); total banded in Jun was 26 only 10 of which were f, and 18 returns captured (10 m/8 f). **First imm banded 7/8** (late) and **only 5 were banded** by 7/29; 5 ad (3 m/2 f) banded and 9 returns (5 m/ 4 f) captured in Jul.

So, to date from 5/13 to 7/29 a total of **43 ad/m and 24 ad/f** have been captured from which **only 5 imm have been banded** suggesting a serious breeding failure. Imm Purple Finches should be swarming at these feeders by late Jul, while on 7/29 I ran my 5 ½ mist nets for 3 hrs catching 4 ad/m and 3 ad/f, but not a single imm. A manuscript I have in press for *North American Bird Bander* covering 47 years of banding 13,256 finches and 3240 recaptures as returns attributes their population decline at JL to climate change. The optimal cool breeding climate they require has disappeared. The 5 imm referred to above were banded on 7/8, and *no additional imm were banded in Aug*, a month of usual abundance, making this a record low year in 49 years of banding at JL. One ASY/m banded on 8/4 was the only PUFU banded in Aug; 3 return ASY/fs (one 5yrs old) and a repeat SY/m were the only other captures for the month. I conducted 4 banding sessions in Aug using 5 ½ mist nets for 2-4 hrs each session: 8/4, 8/11, 8/18 and 8/31.

Ruby-thr Hummer – as of 7/29 no imm were yet seen or banded, normally they appear before then. Ad were scarcer than usual and sugar water consumption low: **13 banded in May and 9 in Jun**, last on 6/29. Also, **10 returns** were captured for a **total of 32 birds**. Four trapping sessions of 1-2 hrs each on 7/6, 7/13, 7/20 and 7/27 produced no captures. At best 2 m and 1 f were seen occasionally at the 3 feeders. First banded HY was a m on 8/10, then a f on 8/17; one ad F banded 8/10 and 8/26, and ad m 8/17.

I weigh the sugar water in the feeders to determine daily consumption. Historically it peaks in late-May/early Jun, giving a good indicator of the seasonal abundance of the breeding population. This year it peaked at 122g/day on 5/25, well below average and nowhere near the record of 1070 g/day in 2003, when 185 hummers were captured over the entire season.

Blk-c Chickadee – **no ad or imm were banded in Jun/Jul**, which is very unusual. Only 2 return birds were captured in Jun. The extraordinary cone crop of the previous summer/fall appears to have had a major impact on this species. On my small half acre lot at JL, thousands of cones fell from the white pines on the property, perhaps the biggest crop since I've been there from 1970. From 7/1/17 to 6/30/18, I captured a **record low** total of **9 chickadees** (7 banded and 2 returns). Over the past 48 yrs the 7/1 to 6/30 total has ranged from 16 to 388 per year, average 152. Chickadees were very scarce at the feeders in Jun and totally absent in Jul. A modest appearance began in mid-Aug with 2 ad banded and an ad return captured 8/18; and another ad return along with the first HY banded on 8/31.

Red-br Nuthatch – perhaps due to the record cone crop, this irruptive species was similarly affected. **Two very newly fledged imm were banded 6/16 and another on 6/30**, not recaptured thereafter. An ad/f banded on 4/18/18 and recaptured 4/27, 5/28, 6/24, and 7/14 was probably their mother. **Otherwise, I banded no R-b Nuts from 5/21/17 to 4/18/18 (nor caught any previously banded ones)**. A similar modest stirring, as with the chickadees, of 2 ad/m banded 8/31."

199 species were reported during the period.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

APBP – Albany Pine Bush Preserve, ALBA; **AR** – Alcove Res, ALBA; **BCM** – Black Creek Marsh, ALBA; **BCR** – Basic Creek Res, ALBA; **BMB** – Bog Meadow Brook Nature Trail, SARA; **CCGP** – Cocksackie Creek Grasslands Preserve, GREE; **CF** – Cohoes Flats, ALBA; **CL** – Collins L, SCHE; **CRM** – Cline Rd Marsh, FULT; **FR** – Five Rivers EEC, ALBA; **FtEG** – Ft. Edward Grasslands, WASH; **FV** – Franklinton Vlaie, SCHO; **HP** – Huyck Preserve, ALBA; **OCA** – Ooms Conservation Area, COLU; **PRWMA** – Partridge Run WMA, ALBA; **SNHP** – Saratoga National Historical P, SARA; **TR** – Tomhannock Res, RENN; **VFNHP** – Vischer Ferry Nature & Historic Preserve, SARA; **WMP** – Wilson M. Powell Wildlife Sanctuary, COLU.

WATERFOWL - HUMMINGBIRDS

Brant: max 75 Blockhouse P SARA 3 Jun.

Mute Swan: max 3 Germantown COLU 21 Jun.

Wood Duck: max 53 nr Schuylerville SARA 9 Jun.

Blue-winged Teal: max 2 Wright's Ferry Launch, Putnam WARR 27 Aug.

Green-winged Teal: max 4 Mine Kill SP SCHO 31 Aug.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 2 Amy's P WASH 30 Jun.

Com. Nighthawk: migrants arr Colonie ALBA 9 Aug; max 103 Spring Run Trail SARA 19 Aug.

CHUCK WILL'S WIDOW: last West Mt Ski Area WARR 7 Jul.

E. Whip-poor-will: max 4 West Mt Ski Area WARR 29 Jun.

Chimney Swift: max 250 CF 12 Aug.

RAILS - LARIDS

Virginia Rail: max 7 BCM 13 Jun.

Sora: reported from nine locations regionwide.

Com. Gallinule: max 5 Corbin Hill Rd SCHO 6 Aug.

Black-bellied Plover: max 2 CF 13 Aug.

Semipalmated Plover: max 21 CF 14 Aug.

Killdeer: max 27 CF 19 Jul.

Upland Sandpiper: max 2 Ft Edward WASH 9 Jun, 25 Jun; Schenectady Co Airport SCHE 20 Jun.

RUDDY TURNSTONE (R8): one CF 24-26 Jul (TW), *intro*.

Sanderling: max 2 CF 23 Jul; L Taghkanic SP COLU 24 Jul.

Dunlin: Round Lk Pres SARA 20 Jul, only report.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER (R8): two CF 30 Aug (TW); one nr Cobleskill SCHO 25 Aug (JR), *intro*.

White-rumped Sandpiper: one CF 22 Jul, 30 Aug.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 6 CF 30 Aug.

Short-billed Dowitcher: one CF 21 Jul, 14 Aug; Great Sacandaga L FULT 21 Jul.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER (R8): one CF 7 Aug (DH), *intro*.
Solitary Sandpiper: max 10 Wrights Loop SARA 7 Aug.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 6 CF 14 Jul.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 3 CF 23 Jul.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 21 CF 26 Jul.
Caspian Tern: max 6 Bob & Betty Cummings Memorial P WASH 25 Aug.

LOONS - PARROTS

Am. Bittern: max 3 S Cambridge WASH 13 Jul; Corbin Hill Rd SCHO 21 Jul.
Least Bittern: max 3 BCM 13 Jun.
Great Blue Heron: max 38 Bear Swamp Pres heronry ALBA 24 Jun.
Great Egret: max 18 TR 26 Aug.
Snowy Egret: max 4 nr Athens GREE 24 Jul.
Little Blue Heron: 2 juv Champlain Canal Lock 2 SARA 28 Jul-28 Aug.
Green Heron: max 12 nr Athens GREE 15 Jul.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: nr Cambridge WASH 15 Jul; nr Athens GREE 11 Aug; Halfmoon SARA 14 Aug; nr Schuylerville SARA 23 Aug; Champlain Canal Lock 2 SARA 24 Aug.
YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: Defreestville RENS 2 Aug (NKi), *intro*.
Black Vulture: max 45 Greenport COLU 1 Jul.
Osprey: max 5 Ft Edward WASH 14 Jul.
N. Harrier: max 4 Ft Edward WASH 19 Aug.
Red-shouldered Hawk: max 4 Stillwater SARA 16 Jun.
Belted Kingfisher: max 4 nr Schaghticoke RENS 16 Jul; Milton SARA 19 Jul.
Am. Kestrel: max 12 T Root MONT 16 Aug.
Merlin: max 3 Bolton Landing WARR 31 Jul.
Peregrine Falcon: max 3 Dunn Memorial Bridge RENS 12 Jun; North-South L Campground GREE 21 Jul.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

E. Wood-pewee: max 10 Spruce Mt SARA 2 Jun.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 6 Plateau Mt GREE 10 Jun.
Acadian Flycatcher: Doodletown WMA COLU 12 Jun, only report.
Alder Flycatcher: max 5 Garnsey Pk SARA 15 Jul.
Willow Flycatcher: max 14 BCM 12 Jun.
Least Flycatcher: max 7 Mt Tom SF WASH 24 Jun.
E. Phoebe: max 8 multiple loc.

Great Crested Flycatcher: max 6 nr Schuylerville SARA 9 Jun.
E. Kingbird: max 15 BCM 9 Aug.
Yellow-throated Vireo: max 5 Hudson Crossing P SARA 6 Aug.
Blue-headed Vireo: max 6 Spruce Mt SARA 2 Jun; Cherry Plain SP RENS 3 Jun; Mountaintop Arboretum GREE 15 Jun.
Warbling Vireo: max 11 nr Schuylerville SARA 9 Jun.
Com. Raven: max 6 Pine L FULT 10 Jun; Elka P GREE 14 Jun; Coveville SARA 12 Jul.
Horned Lark: max 2 CF 19 Jul.
Purple Martin: max 30 Round L Pres SARA 28 Jul.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 37 Waterford SARA 5 Jul.
Bank Swallow: max 140 nr Schaghticoke RENS 27 Jun.
Cliff Swallow: max 25 Florida MONT 29 Jun.
Barn Swallow: max 80 Overmountain Cons Area COLU 13 Jun.
Brown Creeper: max 5 Mountaintop Arboretum GREE 15 Jun.
Winter Wren: max 10 Plateau Mt GREE 2 Jun.
Sedge Wren: 2 Dowmont Rd WASH 12 Jul; New Swamp Rd WASH 14 Jul.
Marsh Wren: max 15 BCM 6 Jun; Drowned Lands Swamp Cons Area COLU 9 Jun; Schodack Creek RENS 26 Jun.
Carolina Wren: max 8 Normanskill Farm ALBA 20 Jul.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 7 nr Schuylerville SARA 9 Jun.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 5 Plateau Mt GREE 2 Jun.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 2 West Kill Mt GREE 10 Jun.
E. Bluebird: max 16 Prospect Cem SARA 15 Jul.
Veery: max 18 Malta Tech Pk SARA 3 Jun; Schodack I SP RENN 21 Jun.
Bicknell's Thrush: 4 Plateau Mt GREE 10 Jun.
Swainson's Thrush: max 7 West Kill Mt GREE 10 Jun.
Wood Thrush: max 17 Milton SARA 19 Jul.
Gray Catbird: max 27 Schodack I SP RENN 21 Jun.
Brown Thrasher: max 5 Prattsville GREE 17 Jun.
N. Mockingbird: max 12 The Crossings ALBA 28 Jun.
Cedar Waxwing: 80 Hudson Crossing P SARA 21 Aug.

Evening Grosbeak: Broadalbin FULT 25 Jul; CRM 10 Aug.

Purple Finch: max 9 Providence SARA 20 Aug.

Red Crossbill: max 12 Mt Tom SF WASH 24 Jun.

Pine Siskin: max 13 Mountaintop Arboretum GREE 7 Jun.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS - CARDINALIDS

E. Towhee: max 17 L Taghkanic SP COLU 30 Jun.

Clay-colored Sparrow: one FtEG 7 Jul.

Field Sparrow: max 17 Saratoga Spa SP SARA 2 Aug.

Vesper Sparrow: max 2 Saratoga Co Airport SARA 7 Jun; Stuyvesant COLU 3 Jul.

Savannah Sparrow: max 16 OCA 17 Jun.

Grasshopper Sparrow: max 4 Dowmont Rd WASH 21 Jul.

Song Sparrow: max 35 Normanskill Farm ALBA 20 Jul.

Swamp Sparrow: max 25 BCM 6 Jun.

White-throated Sparrow: max 12 Edinburg SARA 7 Jun.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 12 Grafton RENS 12 Aug.

Bobolink: max 150 FtEG 14 Jul.

E. Meadowlark: max 5 SNHP 12 Jun.

Orchard Oriole: max 5 SNHP 26 Jul.

Baltimore Oriole: max 45 APBP 24 Jul, bird banding.

Ovenbird: max 30 Black Mt RENS 17 Jun.

Worm-eating Warbler: max 3 Alander Mt Trail COLU 18 Jun; reports from 5 add loc in ALBA, COLU, & GREE.

Louisiana Waterthrush: max 5 Overmountain Cons Area COLU 3 Jun.

N. Waterthrush: max 3 Spruce Mt WASH 23 Jun.

Blue-winged Warbler: max 5 L Taghkanic SP COLU 27 Jun.

“Brewster’s” Warbler: Garnsey P SARA 15 Jun.

Black-and-white Warbler: max 7 Spruce Mt WARR 16 Jun.

Tennessee Warbler: migr arr Henry Hudson P ALBA 20 Aug; Saratoga Spa SP SARA 24 Aug.

Nashville Warbler: max 2 four loc GREE & WARR; migr arr APBP 23 Aug.

Mourning Warbler: max 2 Jewett GREE 1 Jul.

Com. Yellowthroat: max 23 SNHP 14 Jul.

Hooded Warbler: max 2 Louise E. Keir WMA ALBA 9 Jun; Overmountain Cons Area COLU 17 Jun; reports from 4 add loc in ALBA, COLU, GREE, & MONT.

Am. Redstart: max 31 Schodack I SP RENN 21 Jun.

Cape May Warbler: migr arr Peebles I SP SARA 19 Aug; White Ck WASH 20 Aug.

Cerulean Warbler: max 3 Overmountain Cons Area COLU 13 Jun.

N. Parula: max 5 Piseco Rd FULT 16 Jun; migrants arr Saratoga Spa SP SARA 25 Aug.

Magnolia Warbler: max 8 Plateau Mt GREE 2 Jun.

Bay-breasted Warbler: migr arr APBP 23 Aug.

Blackburnian Warbler: max 15 Spruce Mt SARA 2 Jun.

Yellow Warbler: max 18 nr Schaghticoke RENS 22 Jun; Hudson Crossing P SARA 6 Aug.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 10 APBP 5 Jun; Galway SARA 8 Jun.

Blackpoll Warbler: max 20 Plateau Mt GREE 2 Jun.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 8 Plateau Mt GREE 10 Jun.

Palm Warbler: migr arr Bob & Betty Cummings Memorial P WASH 20 Aug; APBP 23 Aug.

Pine Warbler: max 10 Hudson Pointe NP WARR 25 Jun.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 20 Plateau Mt GREE 2 Jun.

Prairie Warbler: max 5 APBP 5 Jun; FR 8 Jun; nr Hillsdale COLU 13 Jun.

Black-throated Green Warbler: max 20 Hunter GREE 2 Jun.

Canada Warbler: max 2 BMB 7 Jun; Lassellville SF FULT 17 Jun; Grafton RENS 1 Jul; migr arr Providence SARA 20 Aug; Peebles I SP SARA 20 Aug; Henry Hudson P ALBA 20 Aug.

Wilson’s Warbler: migrants arr APBP 21 Aug; BMB 26 Aug.

Scarlet Tanager: max 5 Hemlock Trail SARA 15 Jun.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 7 Grafton RENS 12 Aug.

Indigo Bunting: max 7 APBP 12 Jun; Overmountain Cons Area COLU 16 Jun.

REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

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The season had about average temperatures but was wetter than normal. June's temperature averaged 67.7°F, .1° above normal. There was a high temperature of 98° on 18 June and a low of 46° on 12 June, and 4.14" of rain, .29" below normal. July averaged 74.9°, 1.9° above normal. The high temperature of 94° occurred on 3 July, and the low of 51° on 7 July. There was 6.82" of rain, 2.17" above normal. August averaged 74.9°, 3.8° above normal. The high temperature for the month was 93°, recorded on 29 August and the low of 55° on 24 August. Total precipitation of 8.52" was 4.32" above normal. A significant event occurred on the weekend of 21 July when a series of fronts came through the Region from the south. These fronts brought thunder storms with high wind and heavy downpours, and the storms may be what brought several interesting birds to our area. The summer was an eventful period throughout the Region.

Two **Sandhill Cranes** were found in the Orange County Black Dirt Region by Ray Duffy on 23 June and remained in the area, being seen periodically through 11 August by many.

On 4 August Matt Zeitler found a **Whimbrel**, also in the Orange County Black Dirt Region. Though the bird remained for just the day, it was seen by many observers. On 2 August Tom Burke and Gail Benson found a **Whimbrel** at Marshland Conservancy.

Willetts were found breeding at Marshlands Conservancy and were joined on 2 August by a **Western Willet** found by Tom Burke and Gail Benson.

Late August found a series of **Laughing Gull** reports along the Hudson River well north of its usual range. A bird was found by in Wappingers Falls on 13 August by Debbie van Zyl, another 25 August in Waryas Park, Poughkeepsie by Addie Smock, and three on 26 August at the Saugerties Light House by Mary James.

On 23 July, the author found an **Anhinga** while kayaking for shorebirds at Morningside Park in Sullivan County. The bird was huddled in a tree, soaking wet from several downpours that had occurred throughout the morning. Several birders were able to view the bird before it departed late in the afternoon. Coincidentally, the bird returned on the morning of 29 July, but only remained for an hour. This was a first county record and the fourth for the state.

On 2 August the author found a first year **Little Blue Heron** at the Bashakill Wildlife Management Area. It was seen by several birders before taking off late in the afternoon. On 30 August Bill Fiero found a first year **Little Blue Heron** at Stewart State Forest which might possibly be the bird seen previously in Sullivan County.

On 26 July, Matt Zeitler found a **Glossy Ibis** at the Liberty Marsh. The bird remained in the area through 5 August and was seen by many.

A **Roseate Spoonbill** was found at the Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge on 21 July on the New Jersey side of the refuge. It wasn't until 29 July that the bird finally made a foray across the border into Orange County and was seen by Matt Zeitler. Several other birders were fortunate enough to see the bird in New York during its brief flights into the state. It was last seen on 5 August by Karen Miller, flying north through Orange County.

The **Henslow Sparrows** found by Joe DiCostanzo at the Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge in late May continued throughout the summer and were last seen on 31 July. The pair was observed nest building and they are thought to have bred, though no young were seen.

Shai Mitra and Pat Lindsay got word of **Yellow-breasted Chats** at Ogden Mills and Ruth Livingston Mills State Park, and reported them on 2 June. They were last reported on 26 June. A maximum of three was observed and breeding of one pair is suspected.

Finally, **Dickcissels** were found in the Orange County Black Dirt Region by Linda Scrima, the first on 14 July and the second on 20 August. One of the birds was photographed well.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Apollo Plaza; **BWMA** – Bashakill WMA; **CPP** – Croton Pt P; **EGR** – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; **GV** – Great Vly WMA; **HVRT** – Harlem Valley Rail Trail; **KP** – Kingston Pt; **LM** – Liberty Marsh; **MC** – Marshlands Conservancy; **MP** – Morningside P; **OCBDR** – Orange County Black Dirt Region; **PP** – Piermont Pier; **RNC** – Rye Nature Center; **SGNWR** – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR; **SHSR** – Six and a Half Station Road; **SFSP** – Sterling Forest SP; **WRNWR** – Wallkill River NWR.

WATERFOWL – DOVES

Blue-winged Teal: LM 29 Jul (JMc, LScr).

Northern Pintail: MP 30 Aug (JH).

Ruffed Grouse: Black Rock Forest 21 Jun (AA, LA); 3 Livingston Manor Rotary P 24 Jun (AD); 2 Hartwood 9 Jun (VB); Warwarsing 19 Jun (PD); Mohonk Preserve 21 Jun (SLa, MN); Peekamoose Road 26 Aug (AMo).

Pied-billed Grebe: 2 SFSP 20 Jun (AW); Rock Tavern 29 Jun (AA); max 11 Liberty Marsh 14 Jul (VH).

RAILS - LARIDS

Clapper Rail: 2-3 MC 1 Jun-25 Aug (GB, MBo, ASw).

Virginia Rail: SHSR 3 Jun (SF, KF, GB); max 5 LM 7 Jun (JCI), mob); 3 GV 20 Jul (PSch); max 8 MP 28 Jul (JH); Dutchess Rail Trail 18 Aug (DvZ, ASw).

Sora: max 2 SHSR 3 Jun (SF, KF, mob); SGNWR 3 Jun (TP, mob); BWMA 21 Jun (MMc); 2 LM 8 Jun (LScr).

Common Gallinule: max 8 BWMA 1 Jun (JH, mob); GV 11 Jun (CSp), 5 LM 6 Jun (CP); SHSR 8 Aug (KA); 2 Harlem Valley Rail Trail 6 Aug (AMa); Pine Hill Road 14 Aug (KA).

American Coot: max 5 LM 5 Aug (DT).

Sandhill Crane: 2 LM 23 Jun (RD, mob); 10-11 Aug (MZ, LScr), *intro*.

Black-bellied Plover: max 9 OCBDR 21 Aug (LScr, SMu, mob).

American Golden-plover: max 4 OCBDR 21-31 Aug (LScr, MZ, JH, mob).

Semipalmated Plover: Strever Farm 23 Jul (CP); Kingston Pt 28 Jul (PSch); MP 29 Jul (JMc, LSa); 8 PP 1 Aug (EE); 9 CPP 25 Aug

(LT); max 10, OCBDR 25 Aug (AA, LA); AP 3 Aug (JH, SB).

Upland Sandpiper: 2 Blue Chip Farms 13-16 Jun (ASw, DvZ, mob); 2 OCBDR 18 Aug (LSc, MZ).

Whimbrel: OCBDR 4 Aug (MZ, mob); MC 2-3 Aug (GB, ASw, TB), *intro*.

Red Knot: MC 3 Aug (GB, TB).

Baird's Sandpiper: 2 OCBDR 14 Aug (MZ, LScr, mob).

White-rumped Sandpiper: OCBDR 19 Aug (MZ, LScr, mob).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 2 OCBDR 31 Aug (CSp, KMc, KA).

Pectoral Sandpiper: 9 Ulster County Fair Grounds (CK), 2 Denniston Road 22 Jul (MD); 2 MP 1 Aug (JH); PP 2 Aug (EE).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 8 MP 23 Jul (JH); 6 KP 28 July (PSch); 20 OCBDR 18 Aug (LScr); 5 CPP 27 Aug (ASw, mob).

Sanderling: 2 PP 23-24 July (EE, KR); 12 Kingston Pt 23 Jul (MD, PSch); OCBDR 13 Aug (MZ).

Short-billed Dowitcher: 4 MC 3 Aug (GB, BSt); PP 4 Aug (EE); OCBDR 14-18 Aug (MZ, LScr, mob); MP 22-23 Aug (JH, mob).

Wilson's Snipe: SGNWR 4 Jun (DO); 2 OCBDR 13 Aug (MZ); 2 GV 31 Aug (PSch).

Lesser Yellowlegs: 6 LM 14 Jul (VH); 2 Wallkill Valley Rail Trail 22 Jul (MD); Rockland Lake SP 2 Aug (CC); 2 AP 14 Aug (JH); 12 OCBDR 17 Aug (KA); Espus Meadows Light House 18 Aug (MD); 3 Sleightsburg Spit 19 Aug (DF); 2 CPP 20 Aug (LT, BSt); MP 25 Aug (JH, KMI); PP 25 Aug (LP, ME); 3 MC 30 Aug (GB).

Willet: 2 MC 2 Jun-3 Aug (GB, TB, ASw, JMo, mob); MC 2 Aug ("Western" Willet) (GB, TB).

Greater Yellowlegs: Rondout Res 1 Aug (JH); LM 3 Aug (KMcGa, KMc, IG); PP 4 Aug (EE); 2 EGR 10 Aug (GB); Esopus Meadows Light House 11 Aug (DWe); MP 13 Aug (JH); Shaupeneak Ridge 16 Aug (WT); CPP 20 Aug (LT) 3 OCBDR 17 Aug (KA).

Laughing Gull: Croton Boat Launch 8 Jun (MJa); Wappingers Falls 13 Aug (DvZ); PP 16 Aug (LB); Waryas P 25 Aug (ASm); 3 Saugerties Light House 26 Aug (MJa); 9 EGR 31 Aug (GB), *intro*.

Caspian Tern: MC 3 Aug (GB); 2 PP 29 Aug (CC, KR); KP 31 Aug (JMa).

Black Tern: CPP 1 Aug (FD); 7 OCBDR 13 Aug (MZ); 7 Esopus Meadows Light House 17-18 Aug (PSch, WT, MD, JY).

Common Tern: 18 Rye Town P 11 Jun (GB, TB); 4 EGR 1 Jul (GB, TB); 5 MC 15 Aug (DJ).

Forster's Tern: 3 (2 ad, 1 juv) MC 9-15 Aug (GB, TB).

LOONS – PARAKEETS

Red-throated Loon: MC 5 Jun (JMo).

ANHINGA: MP 23 Jul (JH, SB, BNo, KMc, KMi, CSp, KA, RG); 29 Jul (JH), *intro*.

American Bittern: max 2 BWMA 1 Jun (JH, GL, SB); max 2 LM 3 Jun (TP, SM, mob); SFSP (TP, MBra); Hudson R 19 Jun (SRo); Pearl R 10 Jul (LSca); Saugerties 19 Jul (LVV).

Least Bittern: 2 BWMA 1 Jun (JH, SB, KMi, mob); Constitution Marsh 7 Jun (MD); SGNWR 17 Jun (PSch, CSp); Lake Oniad 21 Jul (MP) 11 John Burroughs Sanctuary 28 Jul (MD); PP 18 Aug (JT).

Great Egret: 5 EGR 1 Jul (GB); 23 Jul MP (JH); 14 BWMA 3 Aug (JH, mob); 3 Denniston Road 8 Aug (CSp); 5 Sleightburg Spit 17 Aug (DO); 3 West Point Foundry Preserve 18 Aug (RB, KB); Dennings Pt 24 Aug (AL); 3 CPP 25 Aug (LT); SFSP 25 Aug (BF); 2 Kingston Pt 26 Aug (DWe, DF); 3 Constitution Marsh 30 Aug (RB).

Little Blue Heron: CPP 29 Jul (BSt); MC 31 Jul (BNi); 2 PP 1 Aug (KR), BWMA 2 Aug

(JH, SB, KMi, AB); SFSP 30-31 Aug (BF, CSp, KA).

Glossy Ibis: LM 26 Jul-5 Aug (MZ, JMc, LSa, RG, mob), *intro*.

ROSEATE SPOONBILL: LM 29 Jul-5 Aug (MZ, AG, KMc, IG, KMi), *intro*.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Franklin Delano Roosevelt Historic Site 1-9 Jun (CF, mob); Muscoot Farm 3 Jun-2 Jul (GL, ASw, mob); 4 Weston Road Swamp 7 Jun (DWa); Lake Osiris Road 9 Jun (BF).

Monk Parakeet: 5 Aiello Park 11 Jul (SCar).

FLYCATCHERS – FINCHES

Olive-sided Flycatcher: SFSP 1 Jun (CH); Harriman SP 2 Jun (MJa); SGNSR 2 Jun (DP, EW); Thompson Pd Preserve 8 Jun (JCo); Rockefeller SP Preserve 7 Aug (VH); 2 BWMA 16-17 Aug (JH, KMi, SB); SHSR 25-27 Aug (KMi, KA); SFSP 25 Aug (SRa); SFSP 31 Aug (BF).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: SGNWR 2-3 Jun (BW, HJK, WS, JTe); OCBDR 23 Aug (KA).

White-eyed Vireo: Hunt-Parker Sanctuary 1 Jun (TJ); Nimham Mountain Multiple Use Area 2 Jun (SRI, PLi); Tamarack L 3 Jun (DK); SFSP 9 Jun (CB); North County Trailway 11-12 Jun (GB, BNi); Ulster County Fairgrounds 13 Jun (KS); SFSP 22 Jun (AA, LA); Harriman SP (FD).

OLD WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Vesper Sparrow: LM 14 Jul (VH).

Grasshopper Sparrow: CPP 1 Jun (LT); max 10 SGNWR 7 Jul (MBri, mob); CPP 29 Jul (JK); 2 OCBDR 15 Aug (LScr).

Henslow's Sparrow: 2 SGNWR 1 Jun-31 Jul (TB, GB, DK, mob), *intro*.

Yellow-breasted Chat: max 3 Ogden Mills and Ruth Livingston Mills SP 2-26 Jun (SMi, PLi, mob); SFSP 14 Jun (BF); Rock Tavern 16 Jul (AA), *intro*.

Kentucky Warbler: SFSP 14 Jun (JW).

Dickcissel: OCBDR 14 Jul (LScr); OCBDR 20 Aug (LScr), *intro*.

REGION 10 - MARINE

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The summer started out within near-normal ranges of temperature and precipitation in June, a bit drier toward the city than in the rest of the Region. In late June, we flipped to the warm and humid pattern that would be with us all summer. The first day of July brought a high of 95°F, recorded at Islip and in the city, with high humidity. July and August showed temperatures slightly to well above normal, respectively, and were significantly wetter than normal. Central Park got over 8.5" of rain in August, and Islip over 6", both well above normal but still illustrating how different the weather can be from east to west within the Region. Islip recorded its fourth warmest August and fifth warmest summer on record, according to a climatologist with the NE Regional Climate Center based at Cornell. There were no significant storms or weather events. (Weather data taken from the NOAA National Weather Service site.)

	Central Park			Islip		
Temp	Mean	Normal	Deviation	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Jun	71.7°	71.4°	+0.3°	68.3°	68.4°	-0.1°
Jul	77.6°	76.5°	+1.1°	75.5°	73.9°	+1.6°
Aug	78.1°	75.2°	+2.9°	76.7°	72.8°	+3.9°

	Central Park			Islip		
Precip	Total	Normal	Deviation	Total	Normal	Deviation
Jun	3.11"	4.41"	-1.30"	3.81"	4.27"	-0.46"
Jul	7.45"	4.60"	+2.85"	2.98"	3.43"	-0.45"
Aug	8.59"	4.44"	+4.15"	6.15"	3.98"	+2.17"

As is often the case in Region 10 during summer, seabirds were a major source of interesting records. In addition to several highly productive offshore trips, there were major flights along the ocean beach during late June and an unusual incursion of shearwaters and jaegers into the easternmost parts of Long Island Sound during late July. This activity in the vicinity of Great Gull Island was punctuated by the appearance of a long-staying **Bridled Tern** and appeared

to be related to abundance of Menhaden and other fish in the waters off Long Island's southern and eastern shores.

Ocean vantages along the Suffolk County shore were once again very productive for migrating pelagic species. For the second time, a **Cape Verde Shearwater** was reported, seen well and described in detail by observers of a major flight of Cory's Shearwaters and other seabirds at Robert Moses State Park. Given the rarity of this taxon at the Hemispheric scale, it is understandable that reports lacking photographic support might be viewed with caution, but the observers wish to bring these observations to the attention of seabird researchers and have submitted details to NYSARC.

The offshore trips were spectacularly successful and featured such highlights as **South Polar Skua**, **Bridled Tern**, **White-faced**, **Leach's**, and **Band-rumped Storm-Petrels**, **Trindade** and **Black-capped Petrels**, and much more. The combination of well planned and executed dedicated pelagic trips and increased monitoring by seabird biologists is vastly and rapidly expanding our understanding of bird occurrence along the edge of the continental shelf break.

A major Laughing Gull colony in Great South Bay, Suffolk County, has been suspected for several years, based on the routine early arrival of adults in breeding condition and the early appearance of recently fledged juveniles in the area. The colony was confirmed this year when large creches of juveniles were discovered and photographed on a marsh island. Remarkably, this is just the second major colony on Long Island, despite the decades of persecution endured by the large colony in Jamaica Bay.

Arctic Terns were very well reported this year, after several lean years following the record-setting summer 2013. The occurrence of this enigmatic species varies greatly from year to year, apparently in part because of fluctuations in actual abundance in the Region, but also in part because of subtle variations in the condition of the ocean inlets where observers seek Arctic Terns. The Common Tern and Black Skimmer colony at Nickerson Beach, Nassau County, was particularly productive for Arctic Tern this year, and savvy observers also recorded the species as far west as Queens, as well as at several sites in Suffolk County. Clearly, there is nothing unique about Moriches Inlet in attracting this species. But despite the apparent potential for its occurrence near any ocean inlet, the species has been nearly absent in some recent years, and it is consistently mis-identified many times each year.

The Captree June Count was conducted on 9 June, for the fourth consecutive year since its resumption in 2015. This CBC-style count provided valuable data concerning many common species and breeders in southwestern Suffolk County. Common, widespread species tend to receive less attention from observers, but history proves that they often show dramatic changes in status over the decades. It is hoped that the counts generated by focused efforts such as the June Count will be more interpretable and comparable from year to year than the frequently vague counts obtained from less than enthusiastic eBirders striving to satisfy the Top 100's Complete-No-X-Checklist mandates.

Valuable surveys of breeding forest birds were conducted by Stephane Perrault at the Greentree property in Manhasset, Nassau County, and by Ken and Sue Feustel at several of the larger protected areas in Suffolk County. It may be worth emphasizing, for readers unfamiliar with the details of Long Island's ecological idiosyncrasies, that many species that are widespread and common as breeders in adjacent areas are peculiarly scarce, local, or absent as breeders on the coastal plain (South Shore) of Long Island. Eastern Phoebe and Swamp Sparrow are two obvious examples, so it was gratifying to receive data regarding potential breeding activity from coastal sites for both of these species. In this same vein, Warbling Vireo was scarce and local along the South Shore as recently as two decades ago, but this species has, for reasons that remain completely mysterious, ascended into ubiquity there (exemplified by 29 on 9 June in a small portion of southwestern Suffolk County on the Captree June Count).

Blue Grosbeaks seem to be increasing as breeders in a variety of contexts (e.g., pine-oak savannahs and brushy areas) on Staten Island and Long Island. Summer Tanager, in contrast, remains quite rare and local. Yellow-throated Warblers are now expected each year along the lower Connetquot River in Suffolk County, but birders ought to seek them at additional stations in appropriate habitat. Grassland breeders seem to be losing ground, in terms of both the number of occupied stations and the size of maximum counts. American Crow, once abundant and ubiquitous in the Region, has diminished to a degree that is shocking to long-time observers. Double-digit counts are mostly a thing of the past, except in a few favorable sites in eastern Long Island, and the species is now greatly outnumbered by Fish Crow in most parts of the Region in all seasons. At the same time, Common Raven has increased, and it is not unusual now for a field trip to detect *brachyrhynchus* last among the three *Corvus*—or even not at all.

Early flights of Red-breasted Nuthatch, Purple Finch, and Myrtle Warbler were noted widely, and even Pine Siskin was recorded in August. Experience has taught that these such events are correlated with irruptions of these and other forest breeders later in the fall. Significant waves of southbound migrants were noted at migration monitoring sites (e.g., Central Park, Coney Island Creek Park, Breezy Point, Robert Moses State Park, and Great Gull Island) on 5, 10, and 23 August, as well as other dates.

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ABBREVIATIONS

APEC – Alley Pond Environmental Center, Bayside, QUEE; **APP** – Alley Pd P, QUEE; **Bpt** – Breezy Pt, QUEE; **BRY** – Bryant P, NEWY; **BZ** – Bronx Zoo, BRON; **CB** – Cedar Beach, Babylon, SUFF; **CCP** – Cupsogue CP, SUFF; **CIC** – Coney I Cr/P, KING; **CJC** – Captree June Count 9 Jun, PJL compiler, covering Captree CBC area; **CLP** – Clove Lakes P, RICH; **CMB** – Crab Meadow Beach, SUFF; **CP** – Central P, NEWY; **CR** – Cemetery of the Resurrection, RICH; **CRESLI** – Coastal Research & Education Society whale watch trips out of Montauk; **CRSP** – Connetquot R SP, SUFF; **CVP** – Calvert Vaux P, KING (formerly Drier-Offerman P); **DP** – Democrat Pt, Robert Moses

SP, SUFF; **EPCAL** – Calverton Grasslands (former Grumman Property), Calverton, SUFF; **FBF** – Floyd Bennett Field, KING; **FKP** – Fresh Kills P, RICH; **FMCP** – Flushing Meadows-Corona P, QUEE; **GA** – Gabreski Airport, Westhampton, SUFF; **GBP** – Goethal's Bridge Pd, RICH; **GGI** – Great Gull I, SUFF; GKP – Great Kills P, RICH; **G-WC** – Green-wood Cemetery, KING; **HLSP** – Hempstead L SP, NASS; **HSP** – Heckscher SP, SUFF; **IHP** – Inwood Hill P, NEWY; **Jam Bay** – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, QUEE; **JBSP** – Jones Beach SP, NASS; **JBWE** – West End, Jones Beach SP, NASS; **KP** – Kissena P, QUEE; **Mash** – Mashomack Preserve, SUFF; **MB** – Mecox Bay/Mecox Inlet, SUFF; **MBI** – Moriches Bay and Inlet, SUFF; **MP** – Montauk Pt SP, SUFF; **MPB** – Marine P Brooklyn, KING; **NB** – Nickerson Beach, NASS; **OIn** – Old Inlet, Brookhaven, SUFF; **OMNSA** – Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area, NASS; **OP** – Orient Pt, SUFF; **OPCP** – Orient Pt County P, SUFF; **PBP** – Pelham Bay P, BRON; **PlumbB** – Plumb Beach, KING; **PP** – Prospect P, KING; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP, SUFF; **RSF** – Riverhead sod fields, SUFF; **SBNW** – Stone Bridge Nighthawk Watch, Setauket, SUFF; **Shinn** – Shinnecock Inlet, SUFF; **SPCP** – Smith Pt CP, SUFF; **Timber Pt** – Timber Pt Golf Course, SUFF; **VCP** – Van Cortlandt P, BRON; **Werth** – Wertheim NWR, SUFF.

WATERFOWL-HUMMINGBIRDS

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK: 2 Nissequogue R SP 23 Jun (J. Lafferty, mob, ph.) thru 28 Jun (mob, ph.); one remained thru 14 Jul (S. Mutchnick, ph.); second SUFF record.

Snow Goose: ad Jam Bay thru (mob, ph.)

Canada Goose: 708 CJC, similar to last year.

Mute Swan: 122 CJC, similar to last two years.

Wood Duck: 2 CJC, low.

Black-winged Teal: southbound migr arr 17 Aug BPt (A. Roman-Munoz).

Northern Shoveler: PBP 14 Jul (P. Horan), only summer rep away from Jam Bay, where a few summered; 50 arr Jam Bay 25 Aug (ACo).

Gadwall: 8 CJC.

Eurasian Wigeon: male Jam Bay 3 Jun (P. Horan, EZ, ph.).

Mallard: 193 CJC.

Am. Black Duck: 3 CJC.

Ring-necked Duck: pr FMCP 3 Jun (J. Keane, ph.); m APP—Restoration Pd 23 Jun (A. Bacchiochi).

Greater Scaup: 3 W. Sayville, SUFF 9 Jun (CJC: BF, BBo, MMcB, TS, ph.) & 26 Jul (R. Ogden, ph.); f JBSP 6 Jul (AGu et al., ph.); m BFB 20 Jul (G. Keri, ph.); f Long Beach, NASS 22 Jul (R. Baum, D. Burton).

Lesser Scaup: pr Santapogue Creek, SUFF 9 Jun (CJC: PM) & 21 Jun (S. Mutchnick).

King Eider: Shinn 22 Jun (GB, TWB), continuing and joined by another 1 Jul (R. Zucker et al.); last date for 2 was 31 Jul (GB, TWB); one thru.

Common Eider: summered widely, inc small flocks; sites included Jones In, Moriches In, Shinn, Montauk, and GGI.

Surf Scoter: singles and duos summered more widely than usual: Oakwood Beach, RICH, W. Rockaway In, E. Rockaway In, Jones In, Fire I In, Moriches In, Shinn, Amagansett, SUFF, Fisher's I; 1 CJC.

White-winged Scoter: singles and duos reported widely: BPt, Jones In, Fire I In, OIn, Shinn, MB, Amagansett, SUFF, MP, OP, and Fisher's I; 1 CJC.

Black Scoter: many reps of 1-4 along outer coast: BPt, Jones Inlet, Fire I Inlet, Moriches Inlet, Shinn, Amagansett, SUFF, and MP.

Long-tailed Duck: 1-2 at sev sites: CVP, PlumbB, Jones In, Fire I In, OIn.

Bufflehead: GKP 9-14 Jun (K. Rossi et al.); MPB 2-10 Jun (I. Conte et al.); Werth 12 Jun (R. Shea).

Hooded Merganser: Squire Pd, SUFF 9-10 Jun (S. Mutchnick, ph.); Cold Spring Harbor, NASS 20 Jun (L. Melliny); South Fork Natural History Museum, Bridgehampton, SUFF 21 Jun (AnW); Werth 4 Jul-20 Aug (EZ et al.); BZ 1-31 Aug (T. Olson).

Red-breasted Merganser: small numbers widespread: GKP, CVP, Jam Bay, Pearsall's Hassock, NASS, OIn, Moriches In, Tiana Bay, SUFF.

Ruddy Duck: many reps Jam Bay; others PP thru; APEC 1 Jun-7 Jul (M. Ryan et al.); KP 2 Jun; CP 15 Jun (B. Elbert); Jerome Res., BRON 30 Jun (D. Karlson).

Northern Bobwhite: no convincing reports of wild birds; 1 CJC.

Ring-necked Pheasant: persistence of wild populations east of NYC doubtful, except at Fisher's I.

Wild Turkey: present RICH and BBP, then almost completely unreported east to ca. Yaphank, SUFF; one near Stony Brook, SUFF 3 Jul (E. Runnells, M. Schrimpf), a lone exception; many reports from Yaphank eastwards through pine barrens and both LI Forks.

Pied-billed Grebe: 2 Jam Bay 14 Jun; Blydenburgh P, SUFF 18 Jul (V. Pellegrino); arr CLP 16 Aug (G. Bouqio).

Horned Grebe: Agawam L, SUFF 13 Jun (F. Durso), m in breeding plumage.

Red-necked Grebe: no reports.

Rock Pigeon: max 200 CP 5 Jun (R. Ehler); 87 CJC.

Mourning Dove: single-site max 85 Rockaway Beach, QUEE 25 Aug (CF); 139 CJC.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 2 CJC.

Black-billed Cuckoo: 1 CJC.

Common Nighthawk: no reports suggestive of breeding; arr 3 SBNW (where monitored) 14 Aug (PD); 189 there 25 Aug (PD), max; other high counts: 17 HSP 23 Aug (K&SF); 19 CMB 28 Aug (TS).

Chuck-will's-widow: Quogue, SUFF thru 1 Jul, from spring; 4 Fire I Pines, SUFF 16 Jun (DF).

Eastern Whip-poor-will: all reports were from known breeding sites: Edgewood Oak Brush Plains Preserve, SUFF, CRSP, Riverhead-Westhampton pine barrens, Napeague; 2 CJC.

Chimney Swift: max 219 SBNW 27 Aug (PD et al.); 42 CJC.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 6 CJC.

RAILS-LARIDS

Clapper Rail: 4 CJC.

Virginia Rail: only three reports: High Rock P, RICH 1 Jul (CB); 2 Brookhaven Hamlet, SUFF; Arshomomaque Preserve, SUFF sev dates, traditional site.

Sora: arr Jam Bay 12 Aug (M. Passman).

Common Gallinule: Oakwood Beach, RICH 5 Jun, 7 & 26 Jul (ACi et al.), only reports.

American Coot: singles summered PP and Jam Bay.

Sandhill Crane: ca. GBP 23 Jun (P. Paul).

American Oystercatcher: 46 CJC.

Black-bellied Plover: 3 CJC; max 127 OIn 25 Aug (BBo, TS).

American Golden-Plover: arr JBWE 24 Aug.

Semipalmated Plover: max 900 NB 11 Aug (K&SF).

Piping Plover: 19 CJC; max 41 JBSP 31 Jul (EZ).

Killdeer: 22 CJC; max 57 RSF 19 Aug (EZ).

Upland Sandpiper: FBF 11 Aug (J. Malbin), only report.

Whimbrel: 1 CJC; max 13 Scallop Pd Preserve, SUFF 17 Aug (DR).

Hudsonian Godwit: GKP 16 Aug (J. Miller, ph.); Jam Bay 24 Aug thru (M. Passman, mob, ph.); JBWE 30 Aug (B. Anderson et al.).

Marbled Godwit: 3 PlumbB 12 Aug (D. Paul, P. Paul, ph.); Moriches In 16-26 Aug (S. Stewart, mob, ph.); OIn 25 Aug (BBo, TS, ph.), followed by 6 there 28 Aug (A. Perkins); JBWE 31 Aug (BF et al., ph.).

Ruddy Turnstone: max northbound 400 Shinn 2 Jun (B. Bull).

Red Knot: high counts include: 105 JBSP 25 Aug (K&SF); 248 OIn 25 Aug (BBo, TS); 107 MBI 10 Aug (JBo, C. Cady, PJL, SSM).

RUFF: HSP 22 Jul (L. Nasta, ph.), f plum.

Stilt Sandpiper: max 50 Jam Bay 25 Jul (PJL, SSM).

Sanderling: 55 CJC; max 2500 BPt 16 Aug (IG).

Dunlin: 1 CJC; singles and duos summered MBI and other favorable sites.

Purple Sandpiper: 2 JBWE 16 Aug (P. Maslow, ph.), probably summered.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr Chandler Estate, SUFF 17 Aug (A. Perkins); FBF 25-28 Aug; Yaphank, SUFF 22-24 Aug (B. Bull et al.); 2 Southold 25 Aug (M. Higgiston, E. Schwinn); MB 29 Aug (M. Grasso, DR).

Least Sandpiper: max 150 Jam Bay 6 Aug (N. O'Reilly).

White-rumped Sandpiper: max 34 MB 29 Aug (M. Grasso, DR).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: arr MB 29 Aug (M. Grasso, DR); Miller Field, RICH 30 Aug (ACi); HSP 30 Aug (PJL et al.).

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 15 Jam Bay 7 Aug (DGo, TJ).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 1 CJC; max 1500 Jam Bay 7 Aug (DGo, TJ).

Western Sandpiper: few reports by season's end and no more than 2 per site, e.g., 2 MB 29 Aug (M. Grasso, DR, ph.).

Short-billed Dowitcher: 3 CJC; max 513 CCP 20 Jul (K&SF).

Long-billed Dowitcher: arr Jam Bay 31 Jul (ABk); 1-2 there thereafter; Idlewild P, QUEE 17 Aug (E. Patterson, A. Patterson); only reps.

American Woodcock: max 3 FBF 28 Jul (H. Lopes); 3 Gilgo, SUFF 20 Jul (P. Paul, SSi).

Wilson's Snipe: arr G-WC 5 Aug; Randall's I, NEWY 12 Aug; only reports.

Spotted Sandpiper: bred GGI (JDiC, J. Layman, ph.); has declined greatly as a breeder in the Region; max 12 CMB 11 Aug (TS).

Solitary Sandpiper: max 5 MPB 19 Aug (H. Lopes).

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 60 Jam Bay 26 Aug (E. Eden), low.

"Eastern" Willet: 62 CJC; max 175 CCP 23 Jul (R. Baum, D. Burton).

"Western" Willet: 15 MBI 15 Jul (PjL, SSM, PWC), early for so many; max 18 MBI 29 Jul MMcb, PM, TS).

Greater Yellowlegs: 2 CJC; max 55 Bridge Creek, QUEE 25 Aug (CF).

Wilson's Phalarope: HSP 4 Jun (PjL, ph.); Jam Bay 21 Jul (S. Gopalokrishnan, C. McRae, M. Schoenitz, ph.), East Pd; Jam Bay 28-29 Jul (PjL, SSM), West Pd.

Red-necked Phalarope: 4 off MP 15 Aug (CRESLI); 21 Hudson Canyon 20 Aug (DGo et al., ph.).

SOUTH POLAR SKUA: Hudson Valley Shelf, SUFF 20 Jul (R. Herman, M. Fuirst, ph.).

POMARINE JAEGER (R10): Top of the Claw, SUFF 14 Jul (DR, JSh, AnW, ph.); 2 Hudson Canyon 20 Aug (DGo et al., ph.).

Parasitic Jaeger: 2 CJC (PjL et al.); max 9 GGI 12 Aug (PjL, SSM), *intro*.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER (R10): 2 The Claw 14 Jul (DR, JSh, AnW, ph.).

Bonaparte's Gull: max 2 Jam Bay 14 Jul-15 Aug.

Laughing Gull: 359 CJC; major nesting colony confirmed Great South Bay (SSM, SPe, et al., ph.), second major colony on LI.

Ring-billed Gull: 10 CJC; max 180 Randall's I, NEWY 19 Aug (J. Drucker).

Herring Gull: 249 CJC; max 614 Great South Bay, SUFF 24 Jul (SSM).

Iceland Gull: no reports.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 22 CJC, new max for count; max 36 SPCP 3 Jun (MMcb).

Glaucous Gull: OIn 17 Jul (S. Sullivan, EZ).

Great Black-backed Gull: 113 CJC; max 650 MBI 16 Aug (K&SF).

BRIDLED TERN: Hudson Canyon 19 Jul (R. Herman, M. Fuirst, ph.); GGI 3-16 Aug (JDiC,

SSi, mob, ph.), adult attending tern colony; 2 Hudson Canyon 20 Aug (DGo et al, ph.).

Least Tern: 116 CJC; max 450 OIn 26 Jun (EZ).

Gull-billed Tern: many reports traditional sites around Jam Bay and Jones In, NASS; max 4 NB 30 Jun, 6 & 22 Jul; all others: 2 CB 9 Jun (CJC, MN, S. Meyerheinrich); MBI 17 Jun (PjL, SSM, ph.) & 23 Jul (R. Baum, D. Burton); MB 23 Jun (A. Gilbert); OIn 6 Jul (EZ, S. Sullivan, ph.).

Caspian Tern: max 4 Plumb Beach 17 Aug (T. Preston).

Black Tern: max 5 CCP 28 Aug (SF).

Roseate Tern: 15 Bpt 24 Jun (ABk, ph.), many for site; up to 8 per day NB, many for site; 9 DP 27 Jun (SSM); 6 CJC; 7 OIn 16 Jun (DR); up to 7 per day MBI; up to 3 per day Shinn; MB 29 Jul (SSM); 2 Amagansett, SUFF 25 Aug (AnW); no more than 3 per day ca. Montauk, low; max 2 at Sammy's Beach, SUFF 14 Jul (E. Schumann, low; many reports from OP, e LI Sound, and GGI, where colony was estimated at 4,000 (JDiC et al.); 8 CMB 2 Jul (TS), many for site.

Common Tern: 346 CJC 9 Jun (PjL et al.); colony at GGI estimated at 20,000 (JDiC et al.).

ARCTIC TERN (R10): best year since 2013; reports of ca. 26 documented individuals included here, organized by site; **Bpt:** SY 12 Jun (P. Paul, ph.); SY 13 Jun (ABk, ph.); 2 SY & 2 TY 24 Jun (P. Paul, ABk, ph.); **NB:** ad 6 Jun (K&SF, ph.); different ad 10 Jun (SSM et al., ph.); different ad/TY 15 Jun (P. Paul, ph.); distinctive TY 16 Jun (SSM et al., ph.), also 19-20 Jun (A. Honeywood, Z. Schwartz-Weinstein, ph.); ad/TY 17 Jun (TH, P. Paul, M. Yuan, ph.); new ad/TY 18 Jun (J. Landesberg, ph.); SY 24 Jun (B. Elrick, G. Surya, ph.); SY 25 Jun (SSM et al., ph.); **OIn:** 2 SY 16 Jun (DR, ph.); **Moriches In:** SY 9 Jun (ABk, ph.); different SY & TY 10 Jun (PjL, SSM, PM, TS, ph.); different SY plus prev. day's TY 11 Jun (MMcb, ph.); new TY 15 Jun (KF, ph.); TY 21 Jun (EZ, ph.); 2 SY 24 Jun (PjL, SSM, PM, TS, ph.); SY 8 Jul (JGI, J. Haas, S. Baldinger, ph.); **Triton Lane, SUFF:** SY 28 Jun (DR, ph.); *intro*.

Forster's Tern: 61 CJC; max 150 MB 29 Aug (M. Grasso, DR), always a favored site for high counts, long before breeding resumed on LI.

Royal Tern: still scarce and local along western oceanfront before mid July; 2 NB 17 Jun (TH, ph.), notably early for NASS and suggestive of potential breeding; 23 Jun Bpt;

max 151 Ofn 28 Aug (A. Perkins), now consistently favored vs. MBI, previously the focus of high counts.

SANDWICH TERN: Triton Lane, SUFF 9 Jun (ACo), ad bas; BPT 13 Jun (ABk, ph.), ad alt; NB 19 Jun (DF et al., ph.), SY; RMSP 22 Jun SSM et al.; Moriches In 30 Jun (MMcB, ph.), ad alt.

Black Skimmer: 8 CJC; ca. 450 NB mid Jun.

LOONS-PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: 3 CJC.

Common Loon: 4 CJC.

Wilson's Storm-Petrel: max 470 Hudson Canyon pelagic 20 Aug (DGo et al.).

WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL:

Hudson Canyon 19 Jul (R. Herman, M. Furst, ph.).

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL (R10): max 6 Hudson Canyon 20 Aug (DGo et al., ph.); singles inshore Amagansett, SUFF 22 Jul (ACo) and MBI 25 Jul (EZ et al., vid.) very unusual.

BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL: 5+ Hudson Canyon 20 Aug (DGo et al., ph.); 7 Hudson Canyon 29 Aug (F. Durso).

TRINDADE PETREL: near Hudson Canyon 20 Aug (DGo et al., ph.).

BLACK-CAPPED PETREL: 8+ Hudson Canyon 20 Aug (DGo et al., ph.); 2 Hudson Canyon 29 Aug (F. Durso).

Cory's Shearwater: 8 CJC; max 1600 GGI 25 Jul (J. Layman); 750 RMSP 22 Jun (SSM et al.), major flight inshore.

CAPE VERDE SHEARWATER: RMSP 22 Jun (PJL, SSM, et al.), details to NYSARC, *intro*.

Sooty Shearwater: 8 CJC; max 1000 RMSP 22 Jun (SSM et al.).

Great Shearwater: max 3000 GGI 24 Jul (J. Layman).

Manx Shearwater: max 6 Amagansett, SUFF 7 Jul (AnW) & 6 e LI Sound 29 Jul (N. Bonomo, F. Gallo, P. Rusch).

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER (R10): 2 Hudson Canyon 6 Aug (DGo, TJ); Hudson Canyon 20 Aug (DGo et al., ph.), one Hudson Valley Shelf 20 Aug (DGo et al., ph.).

BROWN BOOBY: ca. 10 mi. s Fire I Light 30 Jul, ad reported independently by M. Furst and C. Witek.

Northern Gannet: 7 CJC; max count 12 RMSP 3 Jun (DF) & 10 Sailor's Haven, Fire I, SUFF 24 Jun (E. Maitra); small numbers along ocean front thru; more notable were 1-2 e LI

Sound near GGI on numerous dates 25 Jul-25 Aug (JDiC et al.).

Double-crested Cormorant: 306 CJC; colony Argyle L, Babylon, SUFF; still a very local breeder in Region.

Great Cormorant: 1-3 various sites e LI thru; 5 MP 19 Aug (D. Auld), consistent with late Aug arrival of immes in Region.

Brown Pelican: widely reported on and near outer coast 5 Jun-11 Aug; 5 Cedar Grove Beach, RICH 17 Jul (ACi, S. Wollney), max RICH; 8 BPT 16 Jul (P. Paul), max QUEE; 2 NB 20 Jun (M. Zito) & 2 JBWE 27 Jul, max NASS; 5 MBI 29 Jul (PM, MMcB, TS), max SUFF.

American Bittern: no reports.

Least Bittern: River Rd., RICH 15, 29 Jul.

Great Blue Heron: 3 CJC; max 19 BPt 12 Aug (J. Fiorito).

Great Egret: 75 CJC; max 151 Willow Pd, Hewlett Bay P, NASS 12 Aug (BF, SPe).

Snowy Egret: 36 CJC; max 142 Willow Pd, Hewlett Bay P, NASS 12 Aug (BF, SPe).

Little Blue Heron: max 7 Oakwood Beach, RICH 28 Jul (CB) & 7 Shirely Marina, SUFF 28 Jul (EZ).

Tricolored Heron: reported from Jam Bay, Lawrence Marsh, NASS, OMNSA, Lido Beach, NASS, Captree I, SUFF, Brookhaven Hamlet, SUFF, and Shinn; almost all singles—numbers much reduced from past decades.

Cattle Egret: Timber Pt 17 Jun (mob); CR 25 Jun (ACi); GKP 7 Jul (ACi); Miller Field, RICH 25 Jul (E. Johnson); G-WC 19-21 Aug (mob).

Green Heron: 10 CJC.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 5 CJC; max 22 CMB 29 Jun (TS) & 22 Jam Bay 14 Jul (CF), low.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: max 10 Old Place Creek, RICH (CB) & 10 Brookville P, QUEE (E. Becher).

Glossy Ibis: 33 CJC; max 78 Jam Bay 9 Jul (J. McManus, J. Rothman).

WHITE-FACED IBIS: Captree I, SUFF 14 Jul (PJL, SSM), ad in fading alt plum.

Black Vulture: max 4 Bucks Hollow, RICH 6 Jun (E. Johnson); CRSP 16 Jun (K. Thompson), only report east of Staten Island.

Turkey Vulture: 2 CJC, new to count; max 12 Calverton 25 Aug (J. Sep).

Osprey: 111 CJC, new count max.

Northern Harrier: a few Jun reports ca. Jones In and MBI; migr arr widely ca. 24 Aug.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Makamah Preserve, SUFF 12 Aug (C. Klein); Southold Village,

SUFF 10 & 28 Jul (J. Sep); Shelter I, SUFF 27 Aug (M. Scheibel); only reports.

Cooper's Hawk: 4 CJC; widely reported all counties.

Bald Eagle: widely reported all counties except for Queens; no longer unexpected anywhere in Region at any date.

Red-shouldered Hawk: nested successfully ca. CRSP (CJC, KF, PJL, et al., ph.), rare breeder on LI.

Broad-winged Hawk: a few migrants PBP late Aug (R. Aracil et al.); Northport 26 Aug (N. Klein), only LI report.

Red-tailed Hawk: 15 CJC.

Barn Owl: max 3 PBP 24 Aug (R. Aracil).

Eastern Screech-Owl: 7 CJC.

Great Horned Owl: 2 CJC.

Snowy Owl: Owl's Head P, KING 5 Jun (R. Ellard, ph.), unus date; Riker's I, QUEE 1 Jul (fide Wild Bird Fund), possibly the same individual.

Barred Owl: VCP 29 Aug, only rep.

Belted Kingfisher: 1 CJC.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 5 CRSP 31 Jul (K&SF), family.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: 55 CJC; max 33 Manhasset, NASS 9 Jun (SPe), high density.

Downy Woodpecker: 25 CJC.

Hairy Woodpecker: 13 CJC.

Northern Flicker: 22 CJC.

Pileated Woodpecker: sw Staten Island 5 & 29 Jun (ACi).

American Kestrel: max 6 21-22 40th Ave, NEWY 18 & 21 Jun (A. Ferlito), illustrative of the species' shift to urban settings as a Regional breeder.

Merlin: singles widely reported late Aug.

Peregrine Falcon: 1 CJC; max 5 OMNSA 1 Jun-31 Jul (M. Farina); 5 Captree I, SUFF 12 Aug (JBo, PJL, SSM).

Monk Parakeet: 10 CJC; max 40 No. Woodmere P, NASS 24 Jul (D. Lichter).

FLYCATCHERS-FINCHES

Great Crested Flycatcher: max 29 CRSP 9 Jun (KF; total 63 for CJC).

Eastern Kingbird: 29 CJC; max 80 RMSP 24 Aug (Z. Millen et al.).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: CP 2 Jun (E. Gaillard, G. Henry); CLP 7 Jun (CB); arr CP 5 Aug (J. Drucker); none e of QUEE.

Eastern Wood-Pewee: 32 CJC.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: CP 2-3 Jun; arr Captree I, SUFF 26 Aug (PJL); PBP 30 Aug (R. Aracil, J. Drucker).

Acadian Flycatcher: CP 9 Jun (J. Russell), only report.

Alder Flycatcher: CP 7 Jun (D. Soares); VCP 10 Jun (N. O'Reilly); arr CP 20 Aug (J. Drucker et al.); G-WC 22 Aug (K. Topping).

Willow Flycatcher: 38 CJC.

Least Flycatcher: arr CP 15 Aug.

Eastern Phoebe: 2 CJC, very local breeder South Shore of LI.

White-eyed Vireo: 7 CJC.

Yellow-throated Vireo: reported from 8 probable breeding sites, all NASS & SUFF.

Warbling Vireo: 29 CJC.

Red-eyed Vireo: 103 CJC.

Blue Jay: 107 CJC.

American Crow: 37 CJC; almost all reports in single digits; 17 Scallop Pd Preserve, SUFF 17 Aug (DR), max among single-site counts that we could be sure involved careful ident.

Fish Crow: 93 CJC; max 128 N. Patchogue, SUFF 28 Aug (S. Mutchnick); multiple reports 100+, with counts 10+ routine.

Common Raven: 1 CJC; widely reported form all 7 counties.

Horned Lark: all sites included: 8 JBSP 31 Aug (PD); 5 St. Charles Cem, SUFF 28 Aug (BF); 2 HSP 23 Aug (JGI); SPCP 3, 7 Jun (MMcB; K. Attinger); 3 Miller Place, SUFF 30 Jul (A. Perkins); 1-3 EPCAL many dates; 1-2 GA several dates; Scallop Pd Preserve, SUFF 10 Jun (F. Durso); 2 W. Neck Pt., Shelter I., SUFF (W. Zitek); 1-4 Orient Beach SP; 2 Cedar Pt CP, East Hampton, SUFF 9 Jun (C. Gangemi); 1-3 Sammy's Beach, East Hampton, SUFF.

Purple Martin: 72 CJC; single-site max 66 Great Pd, Southold, SUFF 10 Aug (SA, MN).

Tree Swallow: 128 CJC; max 2100 OPCP 26 Aug (J. Sep).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: 5 CJC.

Bank Swallow: max 94 RMSP 18 Jul (SSM).

Cliff Swallow: 1 CJC; 8 PBP 6 Jun (L. Weir); many reps of 1-2 from diverse outer beach sites after cold fronts Jul & Aug.

Barn Swallow: 291 CJC; max 475 MBI 29 Jul (MMcB, PM, TS).

Black-capped Chickadee: 45 CJC.

Tufted Titmouse: 34 CJC.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Far Rockaway, QUEE 21 Jun (D. Lichter), unusual date away from likely breeding sites; early southbound reports include 2 Bayard Cutting Arboretum, SUFF 6 Jul (TWB et al.); JBWE 8 Jul (J. Landesberg); Northwest Woods, East Hampton, SUFF 9 Jul (G. Zay); E. Quogue, SUFF 12 Jul (DR); FBF 14 Jul (T. Preston);

widely reported from throughout Region 23 Aug and later; *intro*.

White-breasted Nuthatch: 6 CJC; Tobay Beach, NASS 26 Aug (H. Farber), possibly on the move at season's end; also BPT 25 Jun (R. Ellard), unus date for location.

House Wren: 38 CJC.

Marsh Wren: 34 CJC; max 15 Saw Mill Cr, RICH 10 Jun (CB).

Carolina Wren: 72 CJC.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 33 CJC; single-site max 13 CRSP 9 Jun (KF); 3 RMSP 23 Aug (BBo, SSM, TS), migrants.

Eastern Bluebird: max 9 GA 5 Jul (TWB et al.).

Veery: 5 CJC; max 8 Inwood P Terrace, NEWY 31 Aug (J. Drucker, N. Souirgi), migrants.

Swainson's Thrush: Governor's I, NEWY 2 Jun (A. Barry); BRY 4-8 Jun, late.

Hermit Thrush: no reports; traditionally a scarce and local breeder in pine barrens.

Wood Thrush: max 16 Manhasset, NASS 9 Jun (SPe), a Regionally significant breeding population.

American Robin: 436 CJC; max single sites 200 CP 10 Aug; 200 FBF 29 Aug (SSM).

Gray Catbird: 362 CJC.

Brown Thrasher: 12 CJC.

Northern Mockingbird: 90 CJC.

European Starling: 657 CJC.

Cedar Waxwing: 106 CJC; max 250 RMSP 24 Aug (Z. Millen et al.).

House Sparrow: 194 CJC; max 370 Cow Meadow Preserve, NASS 31 Aug (BF), large number.

House Finch: 34 CJC; max 57 Manhasset, NASS 11 Aug (SPe).

Purple Finch: arr RMSP 23 Aug (BBo, SSM, TS); *intro*.

Pine Siskin: arr CP 25 Aug (D. Barrett, G. Henry, W. Perro), early.

American Goldfinch: 74 CJC; max single site 48 Manhasset, NASS 11 Aug (SPe).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS- CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: 167 CJC; max single site 61 CRSP 9 Jun (KF).

Chipping Sparrow: 87 CJC; max single site 30 EPCAL 3 Jun (A. Deutsch, L. Hertzog).

Field Sparrow: 5 CJC 9 Jun; max 10 EPCAL 3 Jun (A. Deutsch, L. Hertzog); 10 GKP 24 Aug (CB).

Vesper Sparrow: GA 2 Jun-8 Aug, only site, never more than one reported; formerly locally common breeder e. LI.

Lark Sparrow: 2 JBWE 18-21 Aug (mob, ph.); RMSP 18 Aug (KF, ph.), CLP 23 Aug (G. Bouquio); Accabonac Harbor, SUFF 27 Aug (DR, ph.); Randall's I, NEWY 31 Aug (J. Drucker, N. Souirgi, ph.).

Savannah Sparrow: max 10 FKP 7 Aug (ACi), important breeding site in R10.

Grasshopper Sparrow: all sites included: max 39 FKP 7 Aug (ACi), important breeding site in R10; SUFF max 12 EPCAL 9 Jun (S. Sullivan); 2 GA (JGI et al.); Shinnecock Hills GC, SUFF 17 Jun (J. Stocker).

Seaside Sparrow: 70 CJC.

Saltmarsh Sparrow: 66 CJC.

Song Sparrow: 168 CJC.

Swamp Sparrow: BRY thru 13 Jun, late; rare breeder South Shore of LI, so the following are notable: HSP 9 Jun (JGI; CJC); 2 Werth 29 Jul (EZ), singing males, one pres two prior dates.

Yellow-breasted Chat: GKP 30 Jul (ACi); CP 10 Aug (mob); GGI 29 Aug (JDiC).

Bobolink: max 21 FBF 29 Aug (SSM).

Eastern Meadowlark: reported from only 4 sites this season: max 7 EPCAL 16 Jun (J. Sep); 1-3 GA (JGI et al.); 3 Shinnecock Hills GC, SUFF 17 Jun (J. Stocker); MB 30 Jul (BF).

Orchard Oriole: 5 CJC; max 11 Manhasset, NASS 9 Jun (SPe); 2 RMSP 24 Aug (SSM), migrants.

Baltimore Oriole: 65 CJC; max 35 Manhasset, NASS 9 Jun (SPe); 13 RMSP 24 Aug (SSM), migrants.

Red-winged Blackbird: 565 CJC; max single site 470 CIC 10 Aug (DGo).

Brown-headed Cowbird: 62 CJC.

Common Grackle: 286 CJC; max 1600 Swan R Preserve, SUFF 28 Aug (S. Mutchnick).

Boat-tailed Grackle: 35 CJC.

Ovenbird: 7 CJC; 12 HLSP 13 Jun (J. Giunta), good count of breeders; first convincing southbound migr CP 10 Aug (C. McLaughlin); max 7 CP 16 Aug (J. Dean).

Worm-eating Warbler: arr 2 CP 17 Aug (D. Mullins).

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr CP 19 Jul (R. Zucker); max 2 CLP 30 Jul (CB) & Manhasset, NASS 11 Aug (SPe).

Northern Waterthrush: BRY 4 Jun; arr CP 18 Jul; high counts include 12 CIC 10 Aug; (DGo); 12 BPT 12 Aug (J. Fiorito); 7 RMSP 24 Aug (SSM).

Golden-winged Warbler: 1-2 CP 15 Aug thru.

Blue-winged Warbler: 14 CJC; max 6 HSP 9 Jun (JGI), CJC; CP & CIC 10 Aug, convincing southbound migr.

Black-and-white Warbler: max 12 CP 16 Aug.

Prothonotary Warbler: HLSP 17-18 Jun (P. Aitken).

Tennessee Warbler: arr Stony Brook, SUFF 5 Aug (D. Weber); max 2 CIC 10 Aug (DGo).

Nashville Warbler: arr Makamah Preserve, SUFF 12 Aug (C. Klein).

Mourning Warbler: CRSP 9 Jun (CJC, KF), last northbound; arr CP 5 Aug (J. Ward).

Kentucky Warbler: no reports.

Common Yellowthroat: 157 CJC; 16 Caumsett SP, SUFF 12 Jun (K&SF), breeders; 31 BPT 12 Aug (J. Fiorito), large number.

Hooded Warbler: no reps on terr; arr CP 18 Aug (R. Serio); CLP 25 Aug (CB); PP 26 Aug).

American Redstart: 8 CJC; 10 HHSP 25 Jun (E. Schumann), good count for breeders; 28 CP 18 Aug (R. Serio); 20 Manhasset, NASS 23 Aug (SPe), large numbers.

Cape May Warbler: Mt. Sinai, SUFF (2 Jun (A. Perkins); arr Werth (EZ).

Northern Parula: Mash 26 Jun (M. Grasso, historical breeding site; arr FBF 28 Jul (H. Lopes).

Magnolia Warbler: several reports thru 3 Jun; CP 1-22 Jul (G. Henry, J. Ward et al.), unus dates; arr CP 5 Aug (J. Ward).

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr CP 10 Aug.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr Werth 10 Aug (MMcB); max 2 G-WC 25 Aug.

Yellow Warbler: 264 CJC; 40 RMSP 24 Aug (Z. Millen), good flight.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr CP 5 Aug (J. Ward); max 8 CP 16 Aug (J. Dean).

Blackpoll Warbler: 2 HLSP 2 Jun (E. Becher); APEC 16 Jun; BZ 26 Jun (T. Olson); arr PP 23 Aug (D. Paul).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr 2 CP 10 Jun (D. Barrett, J. Ward).

Palm Warbler: arr G-WC 19 Aug (C. Lawrence, M Silber), early.

Pine Warbler: 22 CJC; single-site max 12 Edgewood Oak Brush Plains Preserve, SUFF 28 Jun (EZ).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Governor's I, NEWY 3 Jun (B. Cacace), last northbound; arr CLP 22 Aug (CB) and Jam Bay 25 Aug (L. Albert), early arrivals such as these correlated with irruptions of other boreal breeding species.

Yellow-throated Warbler: 1 CJC; Bayard Cutting Arboretum, SUFF various dates 3 Jun-6 Jul, from spring; 1-3 birds recorded here in summer since 2011; presumed breeding.

Prairie Warbler: 14 CJC; single-site max 11 West MeadowWetlands Preserve, Stony Brook, SUFF 19 Jun (PD).

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr 10 Aug CLP (H. Fischer).

Canada Warbler: arr CP 5 Aug (J. Ward); max 12 CP 16 Aug (J. Drucker).

Wilson's Warbler: 2 Jam Bay 2 Jun; arr CP 24 Aug (S. Passlick).

Summer Tanager: Northwest Woods, East Hampton, SUFF 9 Jun and 27 & 29 Jul (ACo), only reports.

Scarlet Tanager: 1 CJC; max 4 CRSP 8 Jul (D. Martin) & Blydenburgh P, SUFF 18 Jul (V. Pellegrino).

No. Cardinal: 124 CJC.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: all hints of breeding activity confined to the North Shore of LI except a pair of reports from IHP 3 Jun (A. Barry) and 19 Jul (N. Souirgi); southbound migr arr 16 Aug CP & Jam Bay.

Blue Grosbeak: continues to increase: 6 sites RICH; CVP 2 Jun (AxW) & 11 Jul (T. Preston); Caumsett SP, SUFF 25 Jun (K&SF); Yaphank, SUFF 25 Aug (J. Gaglione, S. Meyerheinrich); and at least three sites around the traditional breeding sites near Calverton, SUFF thru.

Indigo Bunting: 7 CJC; max 11 Manhasset, NASS 23 Aug (SPe).

Dickcissel: arr Oak Beach, SUFF 18 Aug (PJL, SSM); GGI 23 Aug (JDiC); CP 24 Aug (D. Barrett); 2 RMSP 24 Aug (SSM et al.); CR 26 Aug (ACi); all reps listed.

ADDENDUM

European Goldfinch: RMSP 11 May (SSM, TS), in morning flight with other migrants.



Trindade Petrel, near Hudson Canyon, *Suffolk*, 20 Aug 2018, © Taylor Sturm.

STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

Regional rarities appear in **BOLD**; county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in UPPER CASE letters; months are shortened to their first three letters. In species accounts: number of individuals omitted implies that one individual was reported; **!** – details seen by Regional Editor; **1S** – first summer; **1W** – first winter; **2S** – second summer; **2W** – second winter; **3S** – third summer; **3W** – third winter; **ad** – adult; **alt** – alternate (breeding) plumage; **Am.** – American; **arr** – arrival or first of season; **avg** – average; **b** – banded; **bas** – basic (winter) plumage; **BBS** – Breeding Bird Survey; **CBC** – Christmas Bird Count; **Com.** – Common; **cont** – continuing; **CP** – County Park; **dep** – departure; **dm** – dark morph; **E.** – Eastern; **f** – female; **FL** – fledgling; **FY** – adult feeding young; **I** – Island; **imm** – immature; **In** – Inlet; **inc** – including; **intro.** – see introduction to report; **juv** – juvenile; **L** – Lake; **lt m** – light morph; **loc** – location; **m** – male; **max** – maximum; **mi** – miles; **migr** – migrating; **mob** – multiple observers; **Mt** – Mountain; **N.** – Northern; **NYSDEC** – NYS Department of Environmental Conservation; **NWR** – National Wildlife Refuge; **NYSARC** – New York State Avian Records Committee; **P** – Park; **Pd** – Pond; **ph** – photograph or photographed by; **poss** – possible; **pr** – pair; **prob** – probable; **Pt** – Point; **R** – River; **Reg** – Region, Regional; **Res** – Reservoir; **sev** – several; **SP** – State Park; **spec** – specimen; **T** – Town of; **thru** – throughout period; **W.** – Western; **WMA** – Wildlife Management Area; **y** – young.

REPORTING REGIONS

Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, except at:

Region 1-Region 2 in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties:

the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia;
NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19
from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County:

the boundary is Mud Creek to NY Route 64, NY Route 64
from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs, and Route 21
from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line.

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County:

the boundary is NY Route 31.

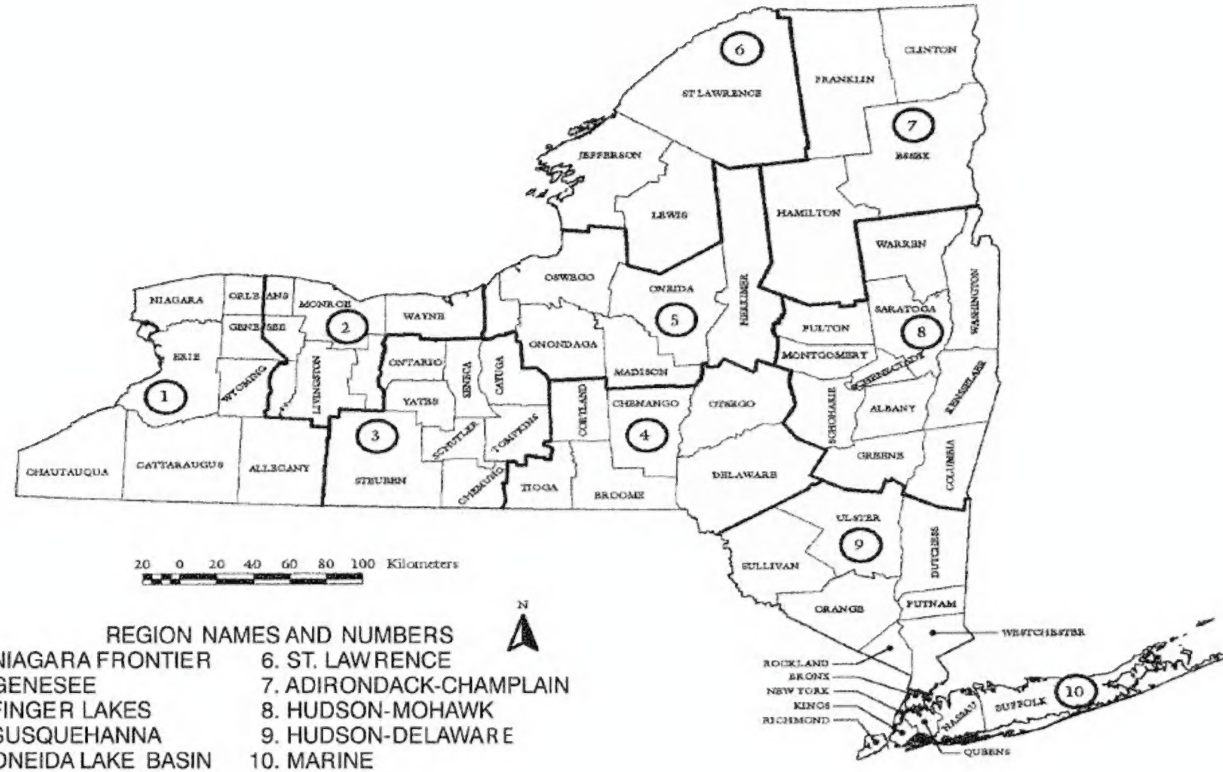
REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February: Deadline is 7 March

Spring Season: March, April, May: Deadline is 7 June

Summer Season: June, July, August: Deadline is 7 September

Fall Season: September, October, November: Deadline is 7 December



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